

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY  
HISTORIC SITES SUMMARY SHEET

P.G. County Survey # 68-5 Date 1801  
Building Name Riversdale (Calvert Mansion)  
Location Riverdale Road (east of RR tracks), Riverdale  
Open to Public ☒ yes ☐ no ☐ restricted

Riversdale is a two story, stuccoed brick late Georgian mansion. Both facades of the seven bay central block are recessed in the center, with Doric portico on north and south. On the north, the portico gives access through a central door; the south portico gives access to three floor-length arched windows with flanking pilasters. Balancing hyphens and wings were added to the mansion shortly after its construction, 1801-1803.

Riversdale was built by Baron Henri Joseph Stier, a Belgian emigrant, who lived in the house for a very short time before returning to Belgium in 1803. Stier's daughter Rosalie and her American husband George Calvert (adescendant of the Lords Baltimore) then moved into Riversdale and continued to work on the house and grounds. Much of the prominence of Riversdale in the 19th century is due to the efforts of their son Charles Benedict Calvert, who made the extensive farm into an agricultural showplace, founded the first agricultural college (University of Maryland), and was instrumental in the establishment of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Riversdale remained in the Calvert family until 1887, when it was sold to a real estate syndicate, and since then it has gone through a series of short term owners. Among them, its 20th century residents were Senators Hiram Johnson and Thaddues Caraway, and Congressman Abraham Lafferty. In 1949, Riversdale was acquired by the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission and is used for county offices.

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Riversdale (Hiram Johnson--Hattie Caraway Residence)

AND OR COMMON

Calvert Mansion

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

4811 Riverdale Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY TOWN

Riverdale

VICINITY OF

5

STATE

Maryland

CODE

24

COUNTY

Prince Georges

CODE

033

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES RESTRICTED☐ YES UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☒ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Maryland-National Capitol Park &amp; Planning Commission

STREET &amp; NUMBER

6000 Kenilworth Avenue

CITY TOWN

Riverdale

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Prince Georges County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

14735 Main Street

CITY TOWN

Upper Marlboro

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**TITLE Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Register of Historic Places

DATE

1969; 1973

☒ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress; National Register

CITY TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

**7 DESCRIPTION****CONDITION**

—EXCELLENT  
~~X~~GOOD  
 —FAIR

—DETERIORATED  
 —RUINS  
 —UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

—UNALTERED  
~~X~~ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

~~X~~ORIGINAL SITE  
 —MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

The history of two-story, hip-roofed, stuccoed-brick Riversdale began in 1799 with the marriage of the second Lord Baltimore's descendant, George Calvert, to the daughter of Henri Joseph, Baron de Stier, of Belgium, the builder of Riversdale. In 1801 de Stier purchased 800 acres between the Paint and Northwest Branches of the Anacostia River in Prince Georges County. There he and his son designed Riversdale as a modified replica of the family's Belgium residence, the Chateau du Mick. Construction was completed in 1802. Throughout most of the 19th century, Riversdale was home for a branch of the Calvert family. In 1887, however, George Henry Calvert II and his brother Charles Calvert sold the mansion to a New York real estate syndicate, and the mansion passed through the successive ownership of John Fox, Alexander Lutz, The Riverdale Park Company, Fanny Kelly Gordon, Barbara Graf, and Thomas Pickford. Then in 1919, 2 years after entering the Senate, Hiram Johnson leased Riversdale from Pickford. Thaddeus Caraway, who was Johnson's colleague on the Senate Judiciary Committee at the time, visited Johnson at Riversdale during the 1920's. Apparently Caraway was impressed with Riversdale, for he and his wife bought the house in 1929, after Johnson moved to 122 Maryland Avenue, NE. After Thaddeus died in 1931, his wife Hattie—who replaced him in the Senate—remained in residence at Riversdale until 1932, when Pickford reacquired the house and grounds. He sold them to former Oregon Congressman Abraham Lefferty in 1933, and he in turn sold them to the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission in 1949.

Riversdale is surrounded by an expansive lawn that originally was landscaped with terraced gardens. Today about 6 acres of the former 2,000-acre plantation remain and are bounded roughly by 48th (Grant) Avenue on the west, Riverdale Road on the north, Taylor Street on the east, and Oglethorpe Street on the south. Modern, 1½-story, frame and stone houses dot the corners of this rather large block. A paved drive approaches the mansion from Riverdale Road and another—probably constructed in 1950—leads from 48th Avenue to a parking lot near the west side of the house. On the south lawn of the mansion is an old cannon that is said to have been part of a vessel that brought colonists to Maryland in 1634.

The mansion is a solid, imposing structure that adheres to a five-part plan typical of late Georgian domestic architecture. Originally, the building consisted only of the two-story, porticoed, 70-foot-long central block built in 1801. In the early 1830's, George Calvert added an approximately 30-foot-long extension comprised of a two-story hyphen and a two-story wing to each end (east and west) of the central block. Today, connected to the east wing by a covered walkway (built in 1949) is a two-story, 19th-century structure used formerly

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as a kitchen and now as an office. Exterior walls of the mansion were built of salmon-colored brick, but during the course of the 20th-century, the walls of the entire structure, including the water table and belt course, were veneered with mustard-colored stucco. Both the front and the rear facade of the central block are divided vertically into three almost equal sections, with the central one recessed slightly to relieve the massive horizontality.

Sheet-metal roofing covers all roof surfaces. A hipped roof tops the central block and is crowned at its center by a flat-roofed cupola added in the late 19th century. Flanking the cupola are two corbeled, brick chimneys, the eastern one of which is purely for ornamentation and symmetry. At both the eastern and western ends of the main block, a narrow multiflued, brick inside chimney pierces the hip of the roof. These two stacks service fireplaces in the hyphens as well in the main block. Enhancing the roofline of the central block is a cornice decorated with modillion blocks. Gabled roofs cover the two hyphens, while each wing displays a roof that is hipped in the rear and gabled and pedimented in the front. A brick interior chimney rises above each wing and the kitchen annex.

Two one-story, raised, white-painted, wood porticoes adorn the central block of the mansion. Gracing the front or north facade is a center-placed portico consisting of four Doric columns and four pilasters supporting an entablature that bears a pediment with denticulated cornice. The correspondingly placed rear or south portico is similar in design except for lack of a pediment. Tradition has it that architect Benjamin H. Latrobe was consulted on plans for the porticoes, but this remains unproven. Front entrance to the mansion, sheltered by the north portico, is a paneled, black-painted wooden double door flanked by white-painted wooden pilasters and topped by a fanlight. A recently added, white-painted, wooden box-like entrance enclosure surrounds this doorway and partially conceals it from view. A white-painted, wooden single door flanked by pilasters and topped by a fanlight is located in the front wall of each hyphen. A fifth entrance is in the west wall of the west wing. The kitchen annex has one door in its east wall and a second in its west wall under shelter of the breezeway.

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Most window openings in Riversdale are rectangular with white-painted trim and stone sills. In the central block, many first-floor windows are nine-over-nine sash, with the exception of two six-over-six sash windows flanking the front door, and three floor-length, semicircularly-arched windows sheltered by the rear portico. Recessed within a pilastered architrave, the latter are triple-hung, six-over-six sashes and are topped by fanlights and flanked by pilasters. Second-floor windows in the central block are six-over-nine sash and the cupola windows are six-over-six sash. In the front wall of each wing, a nine-over-nine sash window illuminates the interior. Each of these two windows is flanked, just above the level of the lintel, by two small, half-round window openings. Most other windows in hyphens and wings are six-over-six sash. In the rear wall of each hyphen are two pairs of such windows, and in each pair, single windows are separated by a spandrel. Just above ground level, several rectangular window openings illuminate the basement.

Although the house has been enlarged and altered over the years, the basic interior structural and stylistic features of the central block remain essentially unchanged. Most of the original furnishings have been replaced, however, by utilitarian furniture compatible with the building's present use. In the central block, the first floor consists of three large, square rooms on the south, and three smaller rectangular rooms on the north. The front (north) door opens into the center room, an entrance hall. To the right of it is the stair hall, and to the left is a service hall containing a secondary staircase.

A doorway in the entrance hall's south wall leads into the central drawing room overlooking the south lawn. This chamber now serves as an executive office. Walls in the central drawing room are of white-painted plaster and are arcaded, with tall, shallow, semi-circularly arched, plaster panels adorning most walls. Flanking these arches are pilasters bearing recessed panels decorated by adamesque plaster garlands. The three arches of the south wall are filled in with triple-hung, floor-length windows. Ornamenting the ceiling is a plaster cornice incorporating a fascia with grapevine motif, rows of acanthus leaves, carved modillions, and egg-and-dart molding. In the center of the ceiling, an elaborate crystal chandelier

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hangs from a plaster medallion that repeats the cornice details. On the left (east) wall of the room a pair of panelled mahogany doors leads to the east drawing room; identical doors on the (west) wall provide access to the west drawing room. All three drawing rooms are almost identical in size and in cornice and medallion detail, but the east and the west drawing rooms are less ornate overall. Prior to construction of the wings, the east room probably was used as a dining room and the west room as a library. Both rooms serve as offices today. In its east wall, though, the east room still has a marble mantel elaborately carved with nymphs, urns, shells, acanthus leaves, and rows of egg-and-dart and bead-and-reel trim. On the north wall is a full-length Georgian-style mirror with an intricately carved goldleaf frame. In the west room is a marble mantel displaying a cartouche and a grapevine motif. This room has three floor-length mirrors with goldleaf frames.

In the stair hall, a three-flight, open-well, open-string staircase with white-painted wood balusters and white plaster ornamental brackets originates against the north wall and rises to the second floor hallway. A carved figurine of a Grecian lady bearing an urn graces the capital of the round, fluted, wooden newel post. This stairway has often been attributed to architect William Thornton, because the grooved, curving, natural wood banister is characteristic of his workmanship. In fact, much of the woodwork in Calvert Mansion is attributed to Thornton.<sup>12</sup>

On the second floor a narrow corridor provides access to five chambers with three small dressing rooms. The northeast room, now called the Henry Clay Room, was occupied by Clay during a visit to the mansion. In general, the upstairs rooms have simpler architectural treatment and lack the elaborate plaster decoration seen in the first-floor rooms. All major second-floor rooms serve currently as offices and meeting rooms. Above is an unfinished attic accessible by a simple stair from the second story.

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<sup>12</sup> H. Chandlee Forman, Maryland Architecture: A Short History from 1634 through the Civil War (Cambridge, Md., 1968), 62.

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Early in the 20th century the originally two-story hyphens and wings underwent remodeling that included the removal of their entire second floor. From a first-floor doorway in the west wall of the central block's stair hall, four steps lead to the west hyphen, which contains a short hall and a library. One panel of the library wall retains its original, pre-Civil War wallpaper, which displays a hunt scene. The west wing is a large chamber now known as the music room--a term dating from the occupancy of Johnson and the Caraways. The room has an 18½-foot-high ceiling (a result of the remodeling) and a fireplace and mantel, over which hangs a goldleaf-framed mirror. The east hyphen and wing are accessible by a doorway in the east wall of the central block's service hall. A large room with an 18½-foot-high ceiling formerly extended the entire length of the hyphen and across the rear of the wing. Johnson and the Caraways used it as a state dining room. The front portion of the wing formerly contained a kitchen. Recently, the state dining room, which can also be entered from the east drawing room, was partitioned into offices.

A deep, vaulted cellar, now used for storage underlies the central portion of Riversdale. Here, massive, white-painted brick semi-circular arches bridged by hand-hewn oak beams reveal the sturdy construction of the dwelling.

Boundary Justification. Included within the boundary are Riversdale Mansion, its kitchen annex, and the surrounding grounds. Not included is some adjoining acreage on which private homes currently rest. There are no Riversdale outbuildings.

Boundary Description. As indicated in red on the accompanying maps (1) U.S.G.S. 7.5' Series, Md.-D.C., Washington East Quad. and (2) AASLH Sketch Map, March 1976, a line beginning on the south curb of Riverdale Road (formerly Jefferson Avenue), about 100 feet east of the east side of the main front drive of Riversdale and extending southward approximately 50 feet through the center of lot no. 1 of block 48 (so designated on plat map JWB 5 folio 688, Prince Georges County Land Records, 1904) to the southernmost boundary of said lot; thence eastward approximately 400 feet along a curving line that forms the south and west boundary of lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 of block 48

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to the west curb of Taylor Street; thence southward approximately 250 feet along the west curb of Taylor to the north curb of Oglethorpe Street (formerly Grant Avenue); thence west about 500 feet along the north curb of Oglethorpe to the eastern boundary of lot no. 6 of block 55; thence northward approximately 195 feet along the eastern boundary of lots 6 and 3 of block 55 to the northern boundary of lot no. 3 of block 55; thence west about 150 feet along the northern boundary of lots 3, 2, and 1 of block 55 to the east curb of 48th Avenue (formerly Arthur Avenue); thence north approximately 120 feet along the east curb of 48th to the southern boundary of lot no. 4 of block 47; thence eastward about 113 feet along the southern boundary of said lot to its east boundary; thence northward approximately 200 feet along the curving eastern boundary of lots 4, 3, and 2 of block 47 to the west boundary of lot no. 6 of that same block; thence north about 72 feet along the west boundary of said lot to the south curb of Riverdale Road; thence eastward about 350 feet along the south curb of Riverdale Road to the starting point.



# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PG:68-5

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES      1919-32      BUILDER/ARCHITECT Henri Joseph, Baron de Stier

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Hiram W. Johnson, according to historian George E. Mowry, was the "first prominent progressive leader to demand the founding of a new party in 1912."<sup>1</sup> The resultant Progressive Party with Theodore Roosevelt as its standard bearer and Johnson in the second spot polled 4,119,538 votes for 27 percent of the popular vote--becoming the first third-party since the Civil War to outpoll one of the major parties.

Two years earlier, while running for Governor of California, Johnson had led progressives in that State to an overwhelming victory over the Southern Pacific Railroad political machine that had dominated the State for years. One of the major interpretations of the progressive movement is that it originated in the States, and Johnson's California is a frequently cited example. During Johnson's tenure in the Governor's chair, California adopted more progressive legislation than any other State with the possible exception of Robert M. LaFollette's Wisconsin, and Johnson became a well-known national figure. His successful legislative package included such measures as the initiative, referendum, and recall; a strong direct primary law; woman suffrage; nonpartisan elections on the city and county levels; a child labor law; a workmen's compensation law; and a greatly strengthened railroad commission.

From 1917 to 1945 Johnson served in the U.S. Senate, where he held the unique distinction of being the only Senator to oppose American membership in both the League of Nations and United Nations. During the fight to defeat the League of Nations, he was considered the "noise" of the irreconcilables, and his nationwide speaking campaign against it was, according to diplomatic historian Thomas A. Bailey "markedly successful."<sup>2</sup> In the 1920's and 1930's, as scholar Richard W. Leopold points out, Johnson "delighted in exposing what he called the secret machinations of the State Department to forge alliances

(continued)

1 George E. Mowry, The California Progressives (Chicago, 1963), 180.

2 Thomas A. Bailey, Woodrow Wilson and the Great Betrayal (Chicago, 1963), 128.

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abroad."<sup>3</sup> As a leading proponent of neutrality legislation, he authored the 1934 Johnson Act which made it illegal for American citizens to loan money to any nation which had defaulted on repayment of its war debts to the United States. Because many believed that American bankers had helped push the Nation into war in 1917, the Johnson Act, says historian Basil Rauch, was "widely supported as an isolationist measure which would reduce the motive for the United States entering a future war."<sup>4</sup>

In the area of domestic policy Johnson was usually aligned with the Republican insurgents who opposed many of the policies of Presidents Harding, Coolidge, and Hoover. An unsuccessful candidate for the Republican Presidential nomination in 1920 and 1924, Johnson in 1932 bolted the party, supported Franklin D. Roosevelt, and approved much of the early New Deal legislation. In the late 1930's, however, Johnson grew disturbed about Roosevelt's foreign policies and attempt to "pack" the U.S. Supreme Court and became an adamant foe of the New Deal.

In a special election on January 12, 1932, Hattie Ophelia Caraway became the first woman ever to win election to the U.S. Senate. That same year, she won a full term with the timely assistance of Huey P. Long, who waged a campaign in her behalf which has been described as like "a circus hitched to a tornado."<sup>5</sup> Reelected again in 1938, Mrs. Caraway in her 13-year Senate career compiled a record of strong support for Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal. At the time of her death in 1950, the New York Times commented that she "proved that a woman could easily carry out the work that her male colleagues were called upon to do."<sup>6</sup>

(continued)

<sup>3</sup> Richard W. Leopold, The Growth of American Foreign Policy: A History (New York, 1962), 412.

<sup>4</sup> Basil Rauch, The History of the New Deal (New York, 1963), 150.

<sup>5</sup> Cited in T. Harry Williams, Huey Long (New York, 1970), 621.

<sup>6</sup> Cited in Nancy J. Weiss, "Hattie Ophelia Wyatt Caraway," Dictionary of American Biography, Supplement Four (New York, 1974), 145.

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Historic Riversdale is a two-story, hip-roofed, stuccoed-brick, late-Georgian-style dwelling built in 1802 for descendants of the second Lord Baltimore, founder of Maryland Colony. From 1919 to 1928, however, the mansion served as Senator Johnson's residence, and from 1929 to 1932, it was the home of Hattie Caraway, who during her occupancy became the first woman elected to the Senate of the United States. Considering its age and history of several owners, the mansion is not significantly altered; and it is in sound condition. There is at least one other known extant Hattie Caraway House--at 1835 Irving Street, NW., Washington, D.C.--but Riversdale is the residence associated with her election to the Senate.

Biography

Hiram Warren Johnson was born September 2, 1866, in Sacramento, Calif., to Grover L. and Annie Johnson. After graduating from the Sacramento public schools in 1882, Hiram entered the University of California at Berkeley but dropped out during his junior year to get married. He began to read law under his father and in 1888 won admission to the bar. For the next few years, he practiced law in partnership with his father and brother.

Johnson's father was an important figure in California Republican politics, and Hiram soon became politically involved himself. In 1892 he asked for and received the Populist Party nomination for sheriff of Sacramento County, but he withdrew from the race when he failed to receive the Republican nomination for that position. In 1894 Hiram and his brother managed their father's successful congressional campaign, but 2 years later they refused to support his bid for re-election because of his connections with the Southern Pacific Railroad. As a result, Hiram and his father were political enemies the rest of their lives.

In 1902 Johnson moved to San Francisco where he quickly became one of that city's leading attorneys and advocates of reform. He first attracted public attention when he replaced Francis J. Heney, who had been shot in the courtroom, as prosecutor in the San Francisco graft trials. Although political boss Abraham Reuf was eventually sent to prison as a result of Johnson's work, he was unable to obtain

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the conviction of businessmen like Patrick Calhoun of the Southern Pacific Railroad who had been implicated as well.

In 1910 Johnson won election as Governor on a platform whose principal plank was to halt the influence of the Southern Pacific Railroad upon California politics. During his tenure in the statehouse from 1910 to 1917, California adopted more progressive legislation than any other State with the possible exception of Robert M. LaFollette's Wisconsin. Johnson became a nationally known progressive leader. His legislative program included such measures as the initiative, referendum, and recall; a strong direct primary law; woman suffrage; nonpartisan elections on the city and county levels; a child labor law; a workmen's compensation law; and a greatly strengthened railroad commission. At the same time, Johnson built a personal machine, which, according to historian George E. Mowry, was "as right a political organization as ever existed in California."<sup>7</sup>

In helping significantly to advance progressive principles on the national level, Johnson in 1911 helped found the National Progressive Republican League, and in 1912 he was one of the principal supporters of Theodore Roosevelt's attempt to win the 1912 Republican Presidential nomination. As leader of Roosevelt's forces on the credentials committee at that year's convention, Johnson became indignant at the Taft-dominated proceedings and, according to George E. Mowry, the Californian was the "first prominent progressive leader to demand the founding of a new party in 1912."<sup>8</sup> When the resultant Progressive Party was created, Johnson became its Vice Presidential candidate, and during the campaign he delivered 500 speeches in 22 States. In the Presidential election, Roosevelt and Johnson polled 4,119,538 votes for 27 percent of the popular vote--becoming the first third-party ticket since the Civil War to outpoll one of the major parties.

Unlike many Progressives, Johnson tried to make the new party viable. In 1914 he won reelection as Governor on the Progressive ticket, decisively defeating the Democratic and Republican candidates. By 1916, however, it became clear to Johnson that the party was

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<sup>7</sup> Mowry, California Progressives, 119.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid, 180.

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doomed, and he returned to the Republican fold, seeking the nomination for U.S. Senator. That summer while the primary contests were underway, Republican Presidential nominee Charles Evans Hughes visited California and at the insistence of Johnson's enemies ignored him. Johnson eventually won the primary and went on to defeat his Democratic opponent easily in the fall, while Hughes narrowly lost the State and the election to Woodrow Wilson. This led to charges by Johnson's enemies that he had knifed Hughes, but according to historians Royce D. Delmatier, Clarence F. McIntosh, and Earl G. Waters, this accusation was false because there was "no evidence that he was less active for Hughes than he had been for cohorts in previous election."<sup>9</sup>

Johnson entered the Senate at the same time that the United States entered the war in Europe. Although he supported most war measures, he grew increasingly critical of Wilson, and during the fight for the League of Nations in 1919-20 was one of the leading irreconcilables. "One of the greatest stump speakers of his time," Johnson, according to historian Ralph Stone, "did most of the 'trailing' of the President" when Wilson went to the country to appeal for the League.<sup>10</sup>

In 1920 Johnson was one of the leading contenders for the Republican Presidential nomination, but he failed to get it largely because of the opposition of conservatives who had not forgiven his 1912 apostasy and who still believed he was responsible for Hughes' defeat in 1916. Harding offered Johnson the Vice Presidential nomination but he refused. In 1924 he challenged President Coolidge in several primaries but withdrew from contention after winning only in South Dakota. During these years, Johnson was usually aligned with the Republican insurgents who opposed many of the policies of Presidents Harding, Coolidge, and Hoover.

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<sup>9</sup> Royce D. Delmatier, Clarence F. McIntosh, and Earl G. Waters (eds.), The Rumble of California Politics, 1848-1970 (New York, 1970), 189.

<sup>10</sup> Ralph Stone, The Irreconcilables: The Fight Against the League of Nations (New York, 1970), 132, 185.

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Johnson bolted the Republican Party again in 1932 to support the candidacy of Franklin D. Roosevelt, and for the next few years the Californian supported most New Deal measures. By the late 1930's, however, Johnson, disturbed about Roosevelt's foreign policies and his attempt to 'pack' the U.S. Supreme Court, became an adamant foe of the New Deal. One of the leading advocates of neutrality legislation, Johnson in 1934 authored what became known as the Johnson Act. It made it illegal for American citizens to loan money to any nation that had defaulted on repayment of its war debts to the United States. Even World War II failed to change Johnson's opposition to American membership in an international peace organization, and from his deathbed in 1945, he was one of three Senators opposed to U.S. membership in the United Nations. On August 6, 1945, the same day the United States dropped the first atomic bomb--on Hiroshima, Japan--Johnson died in the Naval Hospital at Bethesda, Md., at age 78.

Hattie Ophelia Wyatt Caraway was born February 1, 1878, in Humphreys County, Tenn., to William C. and Lucy B. Wyatt. After attending Dickson Normal College and teaching for several years, she married classmate Thaddeus H. Caraway. They moved to Jonesboro, Ark., where he established a law practice and became involved in local politics. While Hattie devoted her attention to her home and children, he concentrated on his political career, winning election to the U.S. House in 1912 and moving on to the Senate in 1920.

When Thaddeus Caraway died suddenly late in 1931, Hattie decided to seek his seat. On January 12, 1932, she won a special election for the 1 year remaining on his term and thus became the first woman ever to win election to the U.S. Senate. Most Arkansas political leaders expected her to serve only this short term, and when she declared her intention to seek a full term, they gave her little chance of success in the August 1932 primary. At this juncture, Huey P. Long, whose schemes to redistribute wealth she supported, offered his assistance. "Leading a caravan of sound trucks and literature vans," Long, according to Caraway biographer Nancy J. Weiss, "crisscrossed the state for nine days on behalf of 'the little widow woman'" and enabled her to win a decisive primary victory.<sup>11</sup>

(continued)

<sup>11</sup> Weiss, "Hattie Ophelia Wyatt Caraway," 145.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

PG:68-5

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DATE ENTERED

Johnson-Caraway  
CONTINUATION SHEET Residence ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE six

Mrs. Caraway won reelection to her seat in 1938, and during her 13-year tenure in the Senate, she established herself as one of the strongest supporters of Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal. She also compiled a number of firsts. She was the first woman to preside over the Senate; conduct a Senate hearing; chair a committee; and serve as a State's senior Senator. Defeated in the 1944 primary by J. William Fulbright, she held a number of appointive positions in the Federal Government before her death in Falls Church, Va., on December 21, 1950, at the age of 72.

Continuation Sheet Johnson-Caraway Residence Item Number 9 Page one

Forman, H. Chandlee, Maryland Architecture: A Short History from 1634 through the Civil War (Cambridge, Md., 1968).

Jonas, Manfred, Isolationism in America, 1935-1941 )Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1966).

Leopold, Richard W., The Growth of American Foreign Policy: A History (New York: Alfred A. Knopf).

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Mowry, George E., The California Progressives (Chicago: Quadrangle Books, 1963).

Rauch, Basil, The History of the New Deal (New York: Capicorn Books, 1963).

Stone, Ralph, The Irreconcilables: The Fight Against the League of Nations (New York: W. W. Norton & Company, Inc., 1970).

(continued)

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bailey, Thomas A., Woodrow Wilson and the Great Betrayal (Chicago: Quadrangle Books, 1963).

Delmatier, Royce D., Clarence F. McIntosh, and Earl G. Waters (eds.), The Rumble of California Politics, 1848-1970 (New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1970). (continued)

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY circa 6 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	18	B	3	25	20	43	14	07	0	B	1	8	33	2	79	0	43	1	40	20
	ZONE		EASTING		NORTHING		ZONE		EASTING		ZONE		EASTING		NORTHING		ZONE		EASTING	
C	18	B	3	27	60	43	13	83	5	D	1	8	33	2	48	0	43	1	38	90

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

(see last page of description.)

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Mary Jane Gregory and Ralph Christian, Assistant Editors;  
with George R. Adams, Managing Editor

ORGANIZATION

American Association for State and Local History

DATE

March 1976

STREET & NUMBER

1400 Eighth Avenue South

TELEPHONE

(615) 242-5583

CITY OR TOWN

Nashville

STATE

Tennessee 37203

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ LOCAL \_\_\_\_\_

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

PG 68-5

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

Johnson-Caraway  
CONTINUATION SHEET Residence ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE two

Tindall, George B., The Emergence of the New South, 1913-1945 (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1967).

Weiss, Nancy J., "Hattie Ophelia Wyatt Caraway," Dictionary of American Biography, Supplement Four (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1974), 144-45.

Williams, T. Harry, Huey Long (New York: Bantam Books, 1970).

# Easement

NA  
#68-5  
P. 465  
1700650307

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

### NOMINATION FORM

for the

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>					
COMMON:					
AND/OR HISTORIC: Riversdale					
<b>2. LOCATION</b>					
STREET AND NUMBER: 4811 Riverdale Road					
CITY OR TOWN: Riverdale					
STATE: Maryland			COUNTY: Prince George's		
<b>3. CLASSIFICATION</b>					
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____
<b>4. OWNER OF PROPERTY</b>					
OWNER'S NAME: The Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission					
STREET AND NUMBER: 8787 Georgia Avenue					
CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring			STATE: Maryland		
<b>5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION</b>					
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Prince George's County Courthouse					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
CITY OR TOWN: Upper Marlboro			STATE: Maryland		
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):					
<b>6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS</b>					
TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey					
DATE OF SURVEY: 1936					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local					
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress					
STREET AND NUMBER: 1st St. Between E. Capitol St. and Independence Avenue SE					
CITY OR TOWN: Washington, DC			STATE:		

7. DESCRIPTION			
CONDITION	(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair
	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
(Check One)		(Check One)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered		<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE			
<div style="position: relative;"> <div style="position: absolute; left: -100px; top: 50px; transform: rotate(-90deg); font-family: cursive;">early Federal</div> <div> <p>The house is a Maryland five-part house of the late Georgian period. The main block of three bays is flanked by single bay hyphens and single bay pedimented wings. The main facade has a flate cornice with guttae blocks and a pedimented tetrastyle porch. The doorway has a semi-circular fanlight. A string course separates the two stories. The front windows of the wings retain their cornices, but the rest of the windows have been stripped of their surrounds and the entire facade has been stuccoed.</p> <p>The hipped-roof is topped by a lantern flanked by chimneys.</p> <p>On the interior, the room opposite the entrance is being restored (or repaired). The door and window reveals of the entara have narrow panels; beneath the windows are moulded panels. The main room has three arched windows; the mouldings are elaborately carved and moulded in plaster.</p> <p><u>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</u></p> <p>The house has been stuccoed since it was built and the windows did not have wooden frames or surrounds as suggested above.</p> <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 20px;"> <p>Christopher Owens 12 April 1973</p> </div> </div> </div>			

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

# 8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian      ☐ 16th Century      ☐ 18th Century      ☐ 20th Century  
☐ 15th Century      ☐ 17th Century      ☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1801-2

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |   |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering  | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-        | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry     | <input type="checkbox"/> Philosophy           |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture  | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention    | <input type="checkbox"/> Science              |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape    | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture            |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-        |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature   | <input type="checkbox"/> itation              |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military     | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater              |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music        | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation       |  |

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

According to Eugenia Calvert Holland (Maryland Historical Magazine, December 1950), the house was built c. 1801. The central block is patterned after the Chateau du Mick, the Belgian seat of the de Stier family. According to tradition, William Thornton assisted in the design. The wings are later, probably about 1830.

The house was built for George Calvert and his wife, Rosalie Eugenia de Stier. Their son, Charles Benedict Calvert, developed the agricultural potential of the estate during the 1850's; he served as president of the Prince George's County Agricultural Society, the Maryland State Agricultural Society, and vice president of the U.S. Agricultural Society.

Henry Clay reputedly wrote the Compromise of 1850 at Riversdale.

The canon on the south lawn is said to have been one of four brought on the Ark in 1634.

Frederick Law Olmsted visited Riversdale on his journey through the south; he wrote of his visit and Charles Calvert's agricultural experiments in A Journey in the Seaboard Slave States (1856).

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Holland, Eugenia Calvert. "Riversdale, The Stier-Calvert Home." Maryland Historical Magazine 45 (December 1950). 243-93.

Olmsted, Frederick Law. A Journey in the Seaboard Slave States. New York: Dix and Edwards, 1856, pp. 5-11.

## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		°	'	"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		°	'	"
SE	° ' "	° ' "		°	'	"
SW	° ' "	° ' "		°	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	

## 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Christopher Owens, Park Historian	
ORGANIZATION M-NCPPC	DATE 3/9/73
STREET AND NUMBER: 8787 Georgia Avenue	
CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring	STATE Maryland

## 12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

Easement PG: 68-5

STATE:	Maryland
COUNTY:	Prince George's
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

## 1. NAME

COMMON:

Riversdale

AND/OR HISTORIC:

Calvert Mansion

## 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

South side (4811) Riverdale Road between 18th and Taylor Streets

CITY OR TOWN:

Riverdale

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

Fifth

STATE

Maryland

CODE

24

COUNTY:

Prince George's

CODE

033

## 3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Offices

## 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:

6600 Kenilworth Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:

Riverdale

STATE:

Maryland

CODE

24

## 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Prince George's County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

14735 Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Upper Marlboro

STATE

Maryland

CODE

24

## 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

Historic American Building Survey (see continuation sheet)

DATE OF SURVEY:

1969

☒ Federal☐ State☐ County☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

Washington

STATE:

District of Columbia

CODE

11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE	Maryland
COUNTY	Prince George's
ENTRY NUMBER	
DATE	

FOR NPS USE ONLY

## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Riversdale was planned in 1801 by Baron de Stier to resemble his Belgian home, Chateau du Mick. Only the central portion was built by de Stier, the hyphens and wings being added c. 1830 by his son-in-law, George Calvert.

The building is a large scale late Georgian mansion with superior Federal interior. Both facades of the central block are divided into three nearly equal sections, the center of both being recessed to relieve the otherwise massive surfaces. A Doric portico gives access to the central door with its flanking windows. Three windows complete the vertical plane of both central recesses. On north and south, both flanking surfaces contain two windows on each story slightly wider than the central windows, and the second story windows being diminished in height by one pane. The south portico lacks the pediment found on the north side of the house, but instead of a door, there are three floor-length arched windows with flanking pilasters. During the twentieth century, the entire house, including its water table and belt course was stuccoed over the original brick. A hipped roof with 'kick' at the eaves covers the main block. Its cornice has large mutule-like modillion blocks. Flanking the late nineteenth century cupola are two small chimneys, the east chimney being purely decorative. On the extreme east and west sides of the main block are deep narrow chimney stacks which service the hyphen fireplaces as well as those in the main block.

The first floor plan is composed of three nearly equal rooms on the south and three smaller rectangular rooms on the north, the north rooms containing stair hall, entrance hall, and a service area with secondary stair.

The entrance hall opens into a square drawing room which overlooks the former terraces. On each side are rooms of nearly equal size with less elaborate decoration than the drawing room. The central drawing room has three shallow arched panels on each wall. The semi-circular arches are flanked by Ionic pilasters with adamesque garlands applied within the recessed panels of the pilasters. The arches of the south wall have triple hung windows reaching to the floor. Double mahogany doors occupy the central arches on the other three sides of the room. The plaster cornice is composed of a fascia with grapevine motif, and courses of acanthus leaves, carved modillions and egg and dart molding. The central ceiling medallion repeats the same detail found in the cornice. The plaster decoration of the two flanking rooms is less elaborate, but the cornice and medallion detail is correlated as in the drawing room. The two latter rooms possess marble mantels around the fireplaces. There is a tradition that William Thornton had a hand in the design of the main stair as the grooved handrail is characteristic of his other work. Similar handrails exist at Ogle Hall and the James Brice House, Annapolis, both the product of the pre-revolutionary architect, William Buckland.

The second floor is divided into five chambers with three small dressing rooms. The south central bed chamber has an unusual feature in its east wall, which has an alcove extending from floor to ceiling. All of the

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Maryland PG:68-5	
COUNTY Prince George's	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

Riversdale

**#6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS continued**

Maryland Register of Historic Sites and Landmarks  
1970 State  
Maryland Historical Trust  
2525 Riva Road  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401 CodeL 24

**#7. DESCRIPTION continued**

second story rooms have simple architectural treatment and lack the elaborate plaster decoration of the first story. Plain plaster cornices exist in each of the rooms as well as simple door and window trim and marble mantels.

The date of the construction of the wings has been estimated as circa 1830's, and judging from the profile of the door trim and plaster cornice, as well as an inventory of 1838, there seems little doubt as to the attribution. Both wings contain one huge room each in addition to a kitchen on the east and hall on the west. Their ceilings reach eighteen and one-half feet in height but are the product of the twentieth century remodeling of two-story wings. Connected to the east wing by a covered passage stands the nineteenth century kitchen.

Riversdale is presently used for the office of the Legislative delegation from Prince George's County. It is in good condition, but lacks the refinement found in private residences.



R. SIGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1801			
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious/Philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	Calvert family
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	associations
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE			
<p>Riversdale's architectural importance derives from its role as one of the best late Georgian, five part houses in Maryland. The Federal interior is of such high quality as to support the local tradition that attributes the design to William Thornton, architect of the Capitol. However, the available information on Thornton does not support the tradition.</p> <p>The historical significance of Riversdale rests with its builder Henri Joseph the Baron de Stier and his son-in-law George Calvert who inherited the property. In 1794 de Stier immigrated to the United States from Belgium which the French army had occupied. He lived in Anne Arundel County and in the Brice House in Annapolis immediately before building Riversdale which he modeled after one of his European houses. In 1799 de Stier's daughter married George Calvert, a descendant of the Lords Baltimore. Four years later de Stier decided to return to Europe leaving his Prince George's County residence in charge of this daughter and son-in-law.</p> <p>Charles Benedict Calvert succeeded his father as master of Riversdale. He devoted his life to agriculture through his supervision of this 2000 acre farm and through county, state and national agricultural societies. His efforts through the United States Agricultural Society were responsible for the creation of the Department of Agriculture (1853).</p> <p>Henry Clay often visited Calvert at Riversdale staying in the northeast bedroom. Tradition maintains that he wrote a draft for the Compromise of 1850 while in that room.</p> <p>The house remained in the Calvert family through the 1880's. It had a series of owners until 1949 when the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission purchased the property for its Prince George's County headquarters. (It is now the headquarters of the Prince George's County Delegation to the Maryland Assembly.) With the acquisition of Riversdale, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission has declared its interest in the heritage of the bi-county region and in the preservation of historic properties in the midst of the sprawl of suburban Washington, D. C.</p>			

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. "The Calvert Mansion 'Riversdale.'" Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Prince George's County Regional Office, 1958.

## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	38 ° 57 ' 41 "	76 ° 55 ' 59 "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	38 ° 57 ' 39 "	76 ° 55 ' 48 "				
SE	38 ° 57 ' 34 "	76 ° 55 ' 50 "				
SW	38 ° 57 ' 36 "	76 ° 56 ' 00 "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 10.5 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

## 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Michael Bourne and Nancy Miller, Historian	
ORGANIZATION Maryland Historical Trust	DATE Nov. 17, 1972
STREET AND NUMBER: 2525 Riva Road	
CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis	STATE Maryland
	CODE 24

## 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

## NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

Name

Orlando Ridout IV  
Orlando Ridout IV

Title

State Liaison Officer  
for Maryland

Date

November 17, 1972

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

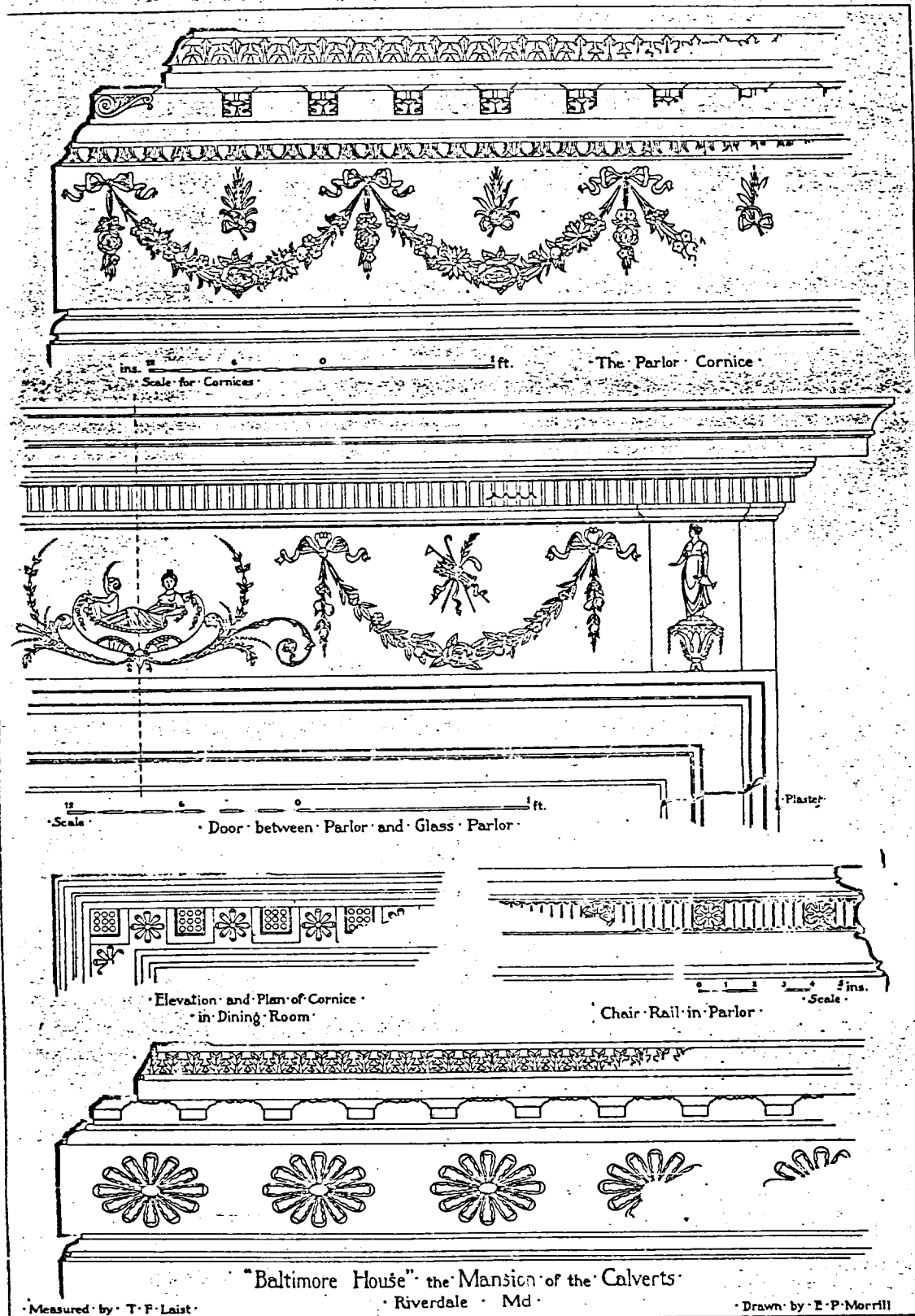
ATTEST:

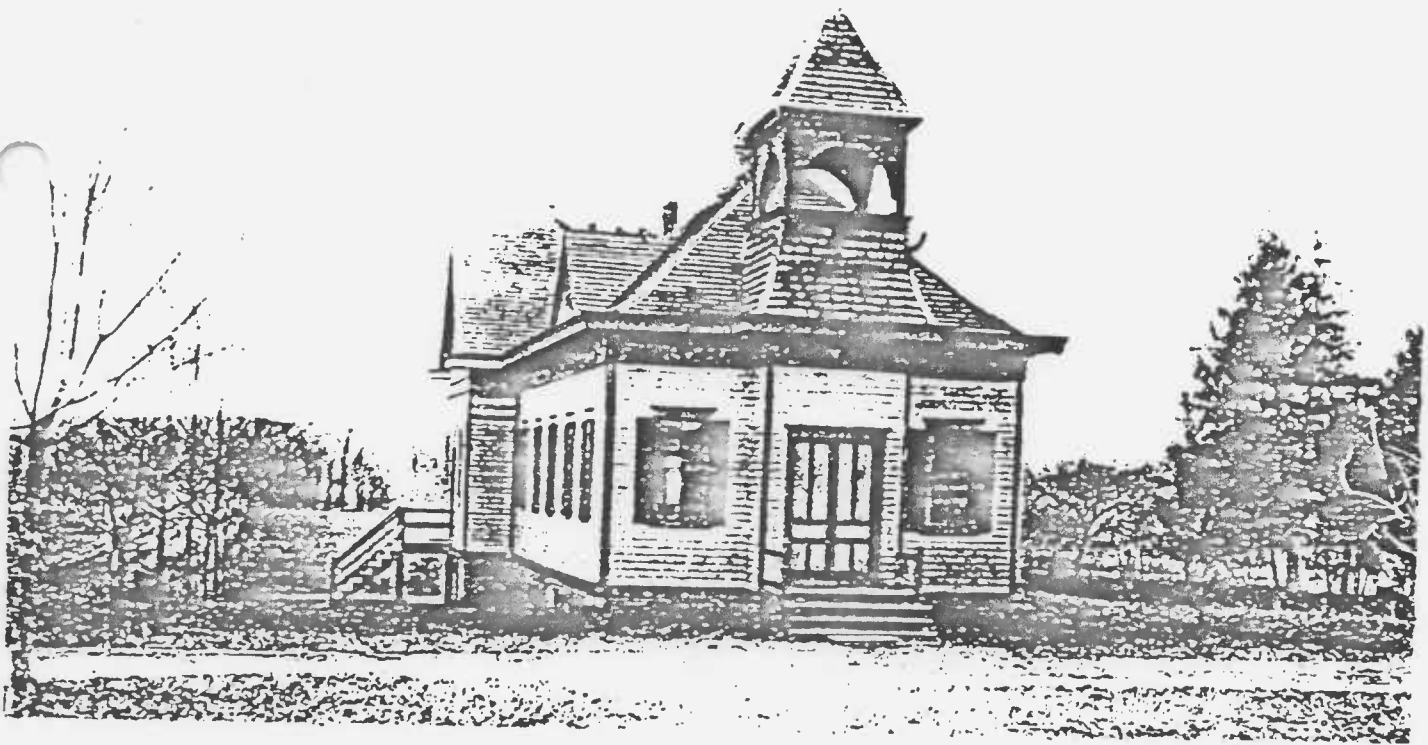
\_\_\_\_\_  
Keeper of The National Register

Date

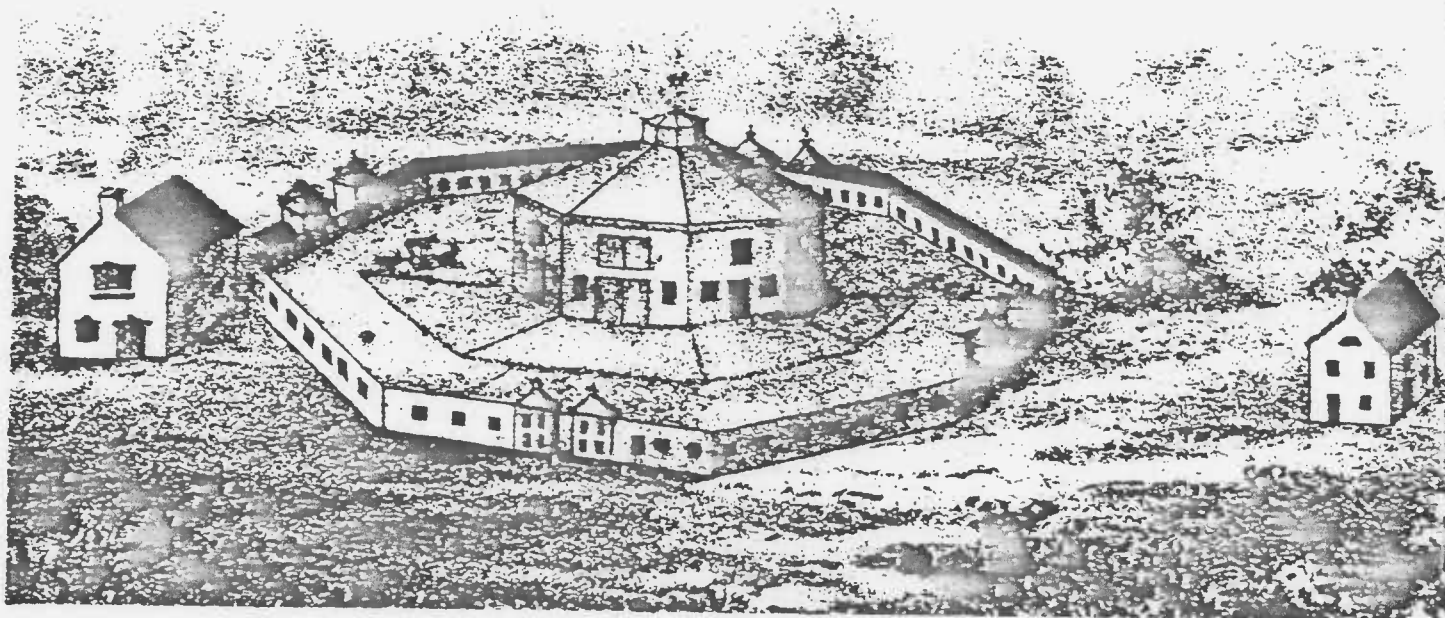
SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## The Georgian [Colonial] Period





*Figure 5.4. Riverdale School House (c.1900).*



*Figure 3.3. Perspective lithograph of Calvert's octagonal barn (c. 1848).*

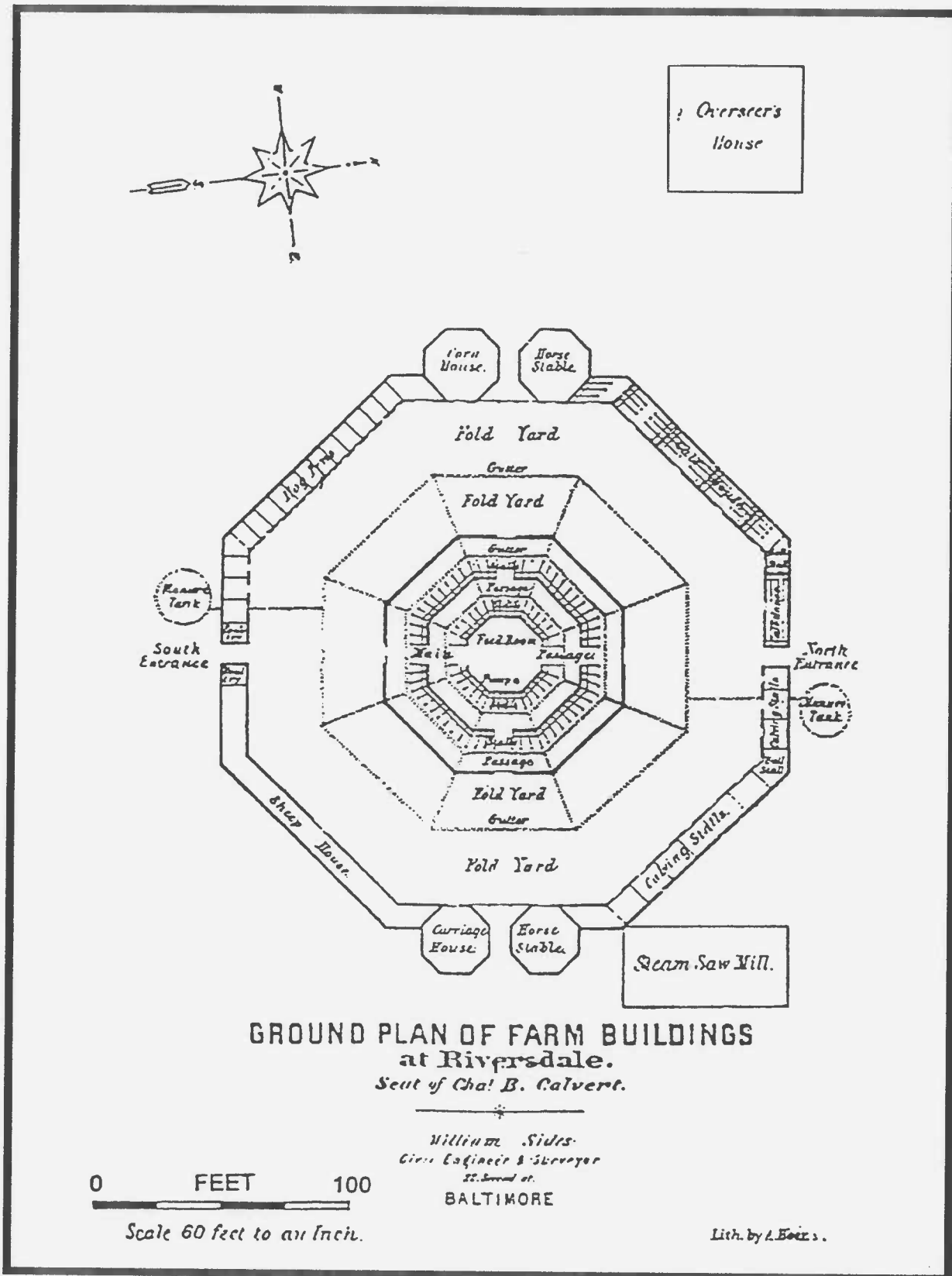


Figure 6.1 Octagonal Barn and Farm Buildings Designed by Charles B. Calvert, from a Plan Drawn by William Sides (Source: Calvert 1854).

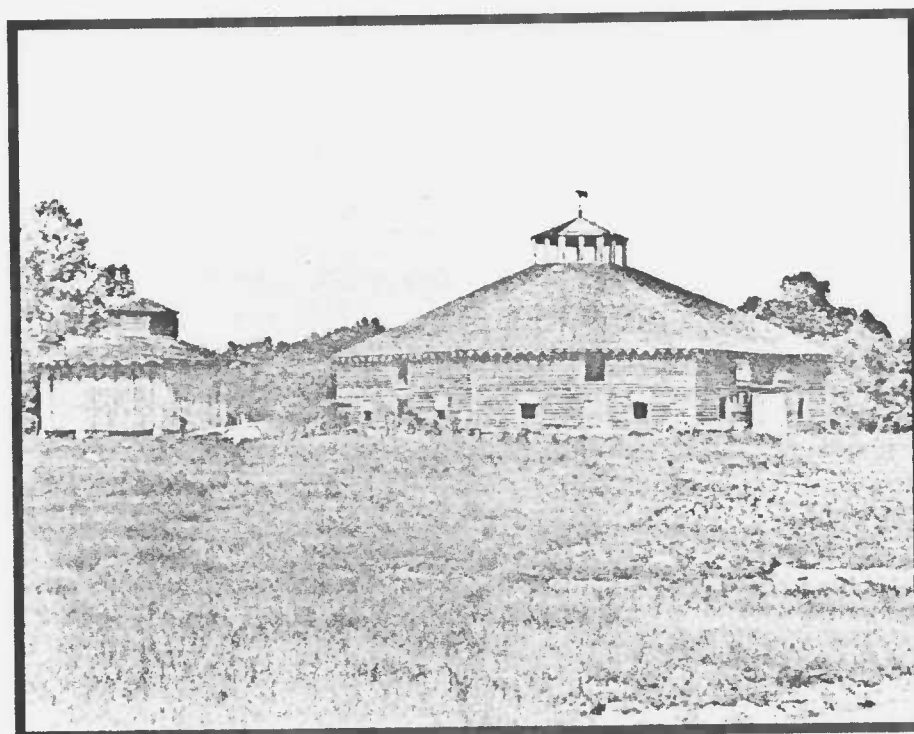
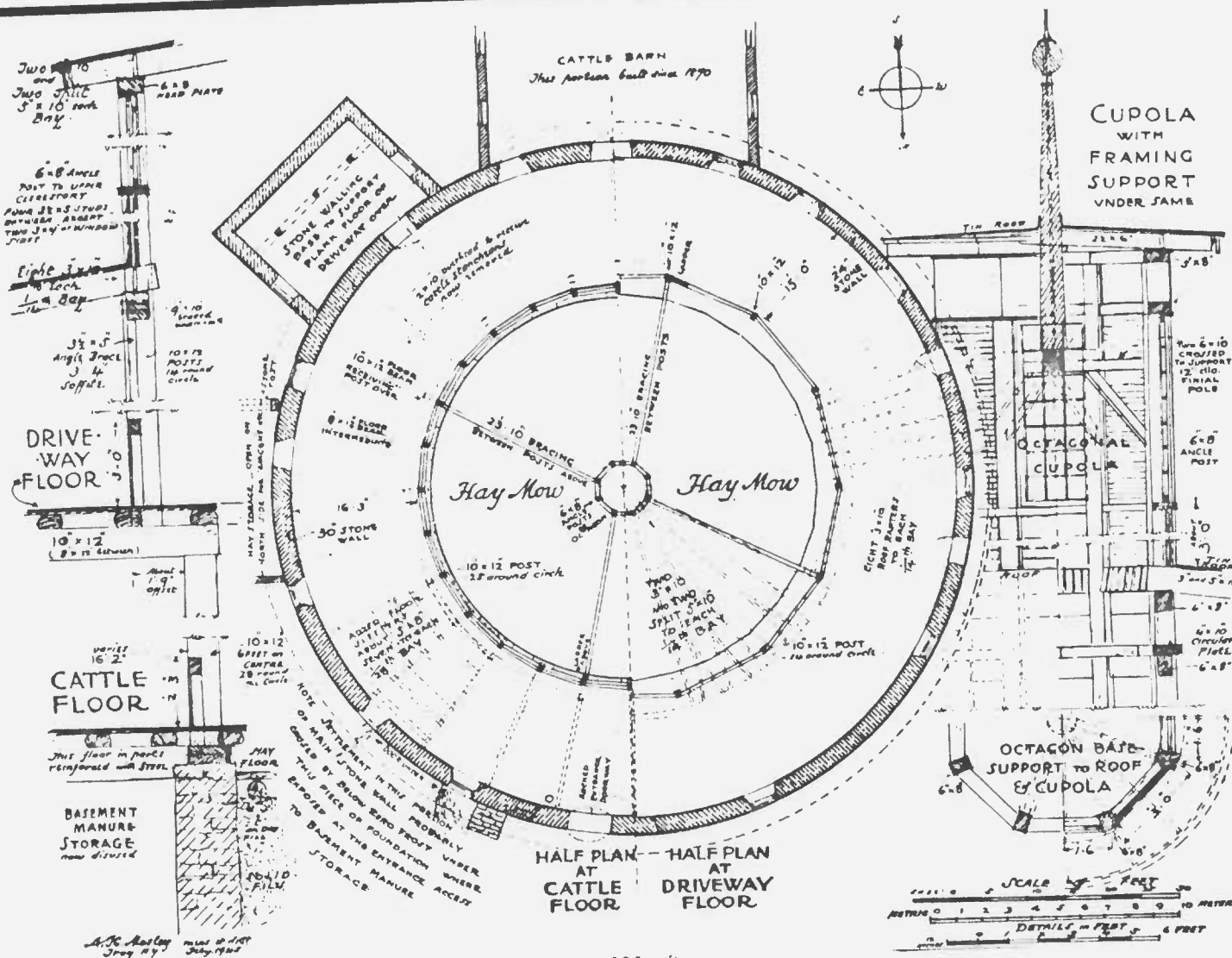


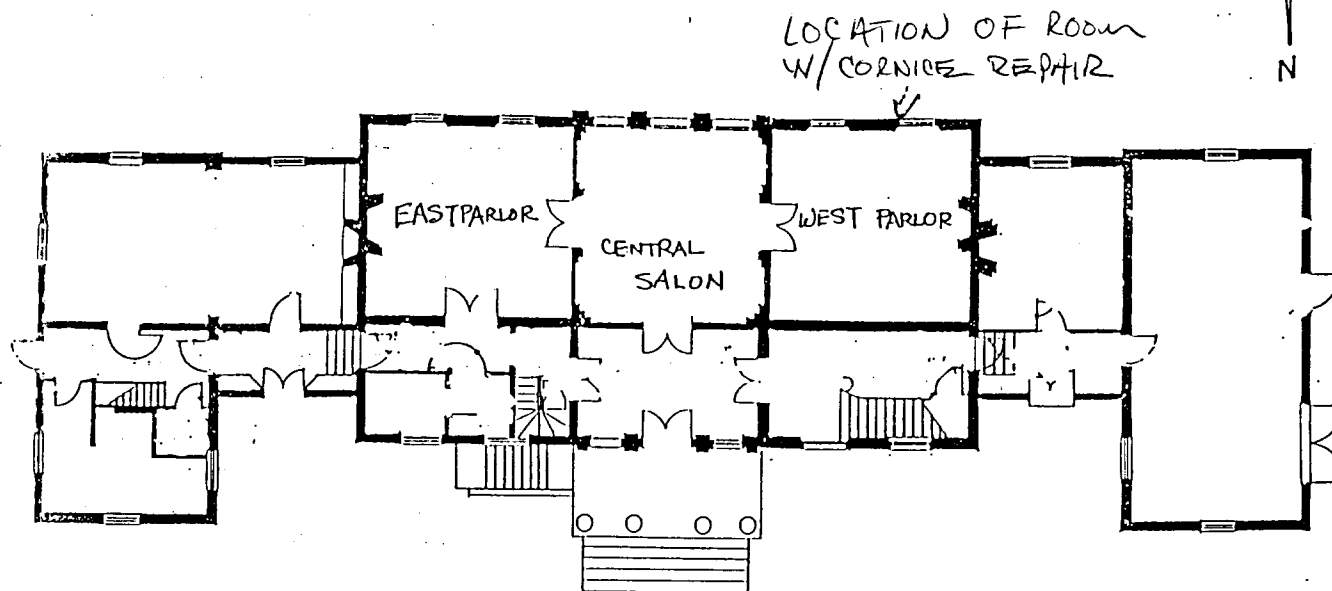
Figure 6.2 Calvert's Octagonal Barn and Corn House  
(Source: Miller and Ferguson 1996:16).



Hancock Shakers round barn. Many of the 5' x 10' and 3' x 10' rafters radiating from the central octagon are split halfway down their length to distribute weight more evenly.

Figure 6.3 Plan of the Hancock Shakers' Round Barn, 1826 (Source: Rawson 1979:84).





FIRST FLOOR PLAN

NO SCALE

PG:68-5  
Riversdale  
Prince George's Co., MD

for Governor Eden's lovely wife, Caroline Calvert Eden, George Calvert's paternal aunt, who had been a frequent visitor at Mount Airy during George's childhood.

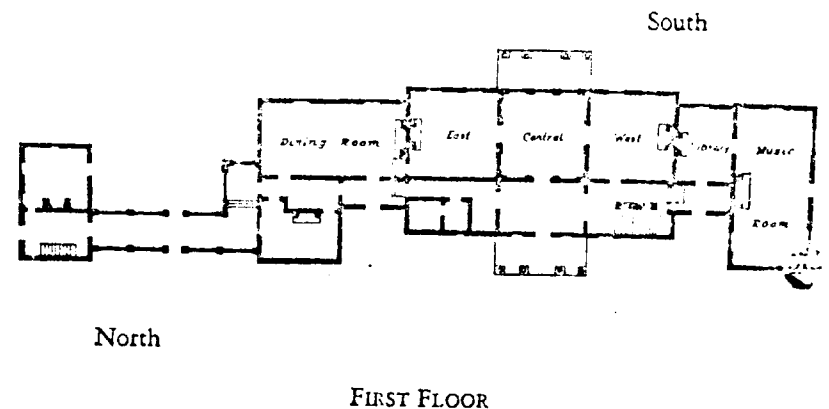
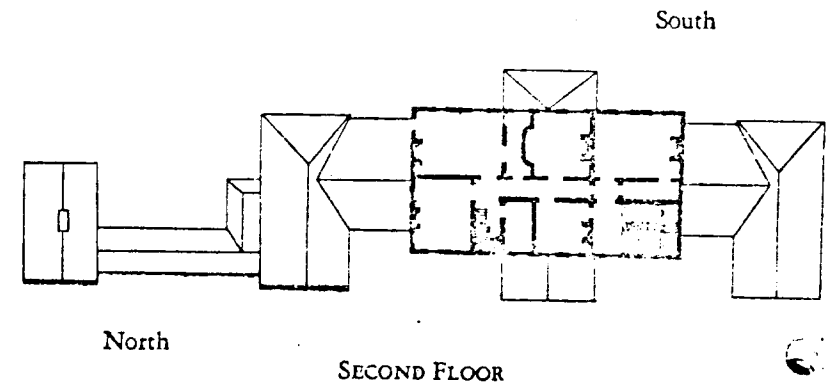
In the fall of this year, the public buildings in the District of Columbia being ready, Congress held its first session in the new Capital.

The following spring, Stier's son, Charles, "lent his name in the purchase" for his father of six lots in Bladensburg and five tracts of land adjoining in Prince George's County, conveyed by William and Helen Steuart to Charles Jean Stier. This low lying meadow land, something over 800 acres, in a rich agricultural section of Maryland, between the upper reaches of the Paint Branch and the Northwest Branch of the Anacostia River, were the nucleus of the plantation of Riversdale.<sup>18</sup>

The topography of the land was similar to the Belgian holdings of Baron de Stier, just north of Antwerp. The family decided that the house to be erected here should follow the classic lines of the Chateau du Mick, built ca. 1775. Accordingly, Charles drew the plans for the house prior to his return to Belgium in November, 1801. That same year ground was broken for the mansion. Bricks, for the house, of a bright salmon color, were made from the local clay.

Rosalie Calvert wrote to her brother in December 1801: "... the labour of building seems to agree with him [Papa] ... the house is progressing well." Residing conveniently near, Henri Stier carefully watched the construction. The deep vaulted cellars were the first indication of the solid building technique so pronounced in the central structure. The massive brick arches were bridged by hand-hewn 12 x 12-inch oak beams, which still bear the adz marks. The central beams are supported by trunks of cedar.

While the house has been greatly enlarged and altered since its original owner's departure, the central part retains its essential features and style. As the plan shows, the entrance hall leads into a square drawing room overlooking the grounds to the south. On either side are rooms of almost identical size, with similar, if less elaborate, decoration. The central salon has three shallow arched panels on each side. The semi-circular arches are supported by paired, decorated Corinthian pilasters. On the outside or south



FLOOR PLAN OF RIVERSDALE, 1950  
Showing the "Breezeway" which now connects the old kitchen with the east wing.

<sup>18</sup> Prince George's County Deeds, Liber J. R. M. # 8, f. 584-5.

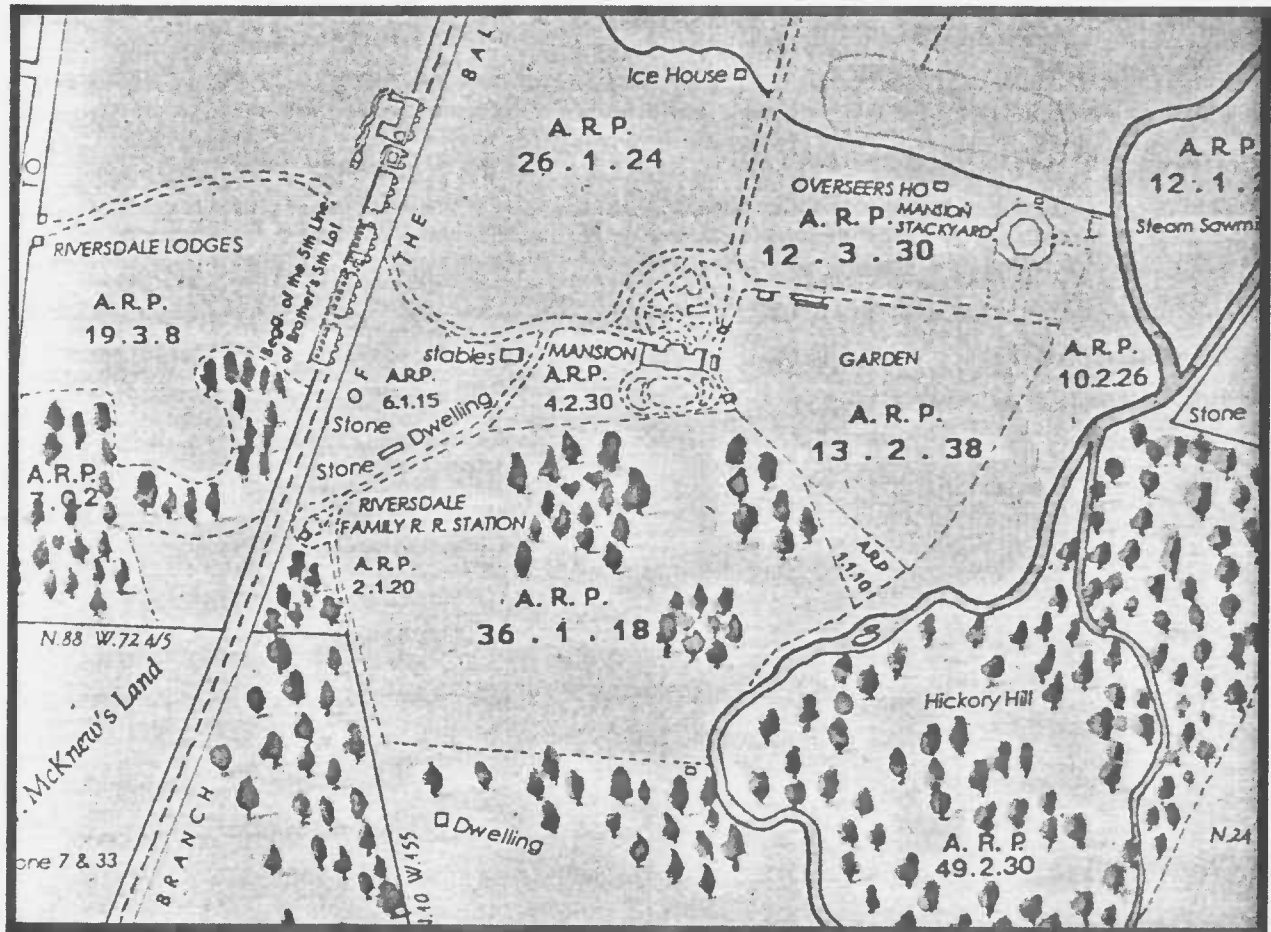


Figure 6.6 Detail of the Riversdale Mansion and Immediate Surroundings, 1853  
(Source: Sides 1853).

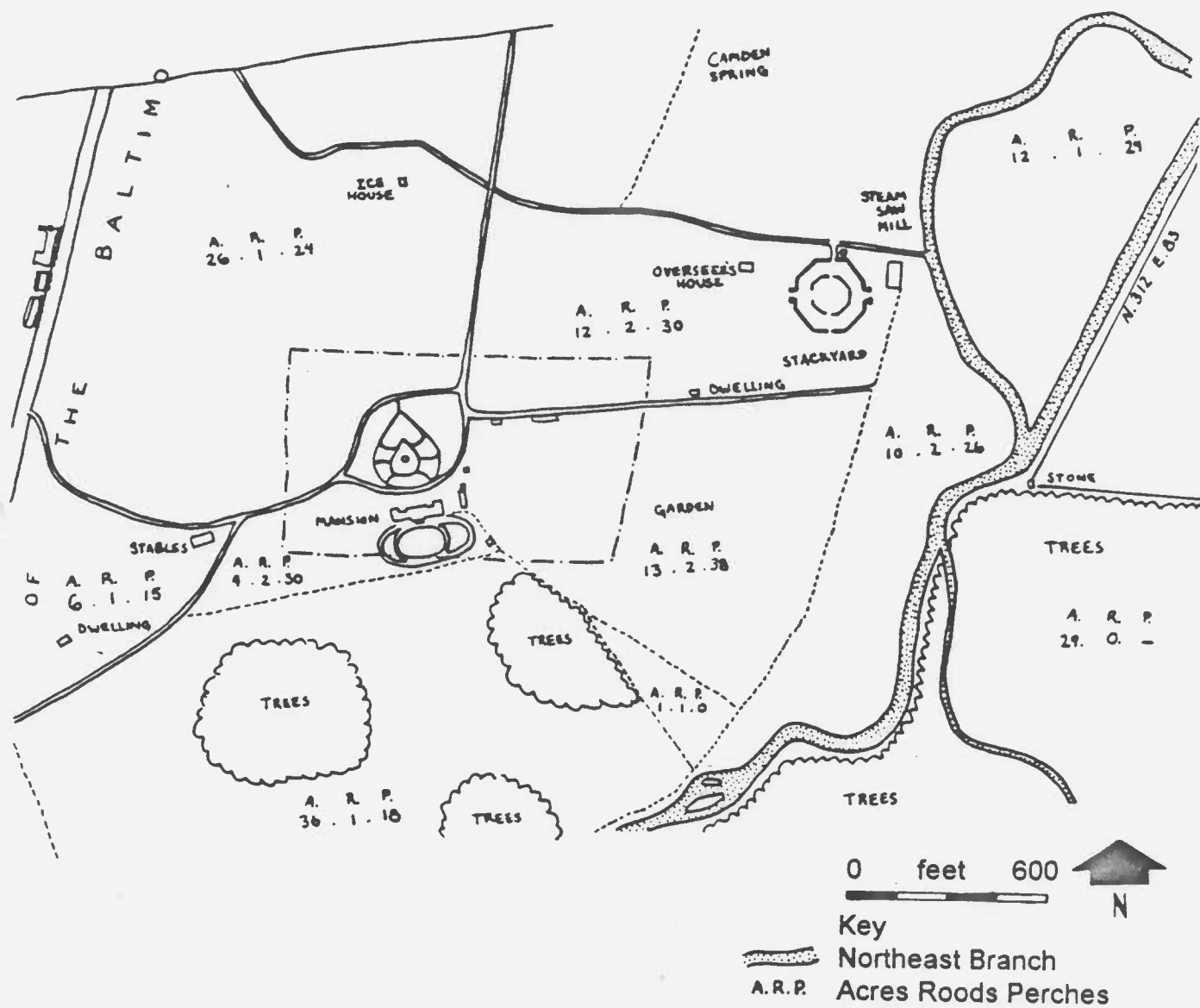


Figure 3.4. Enhanced view of the William Sides map (1853).

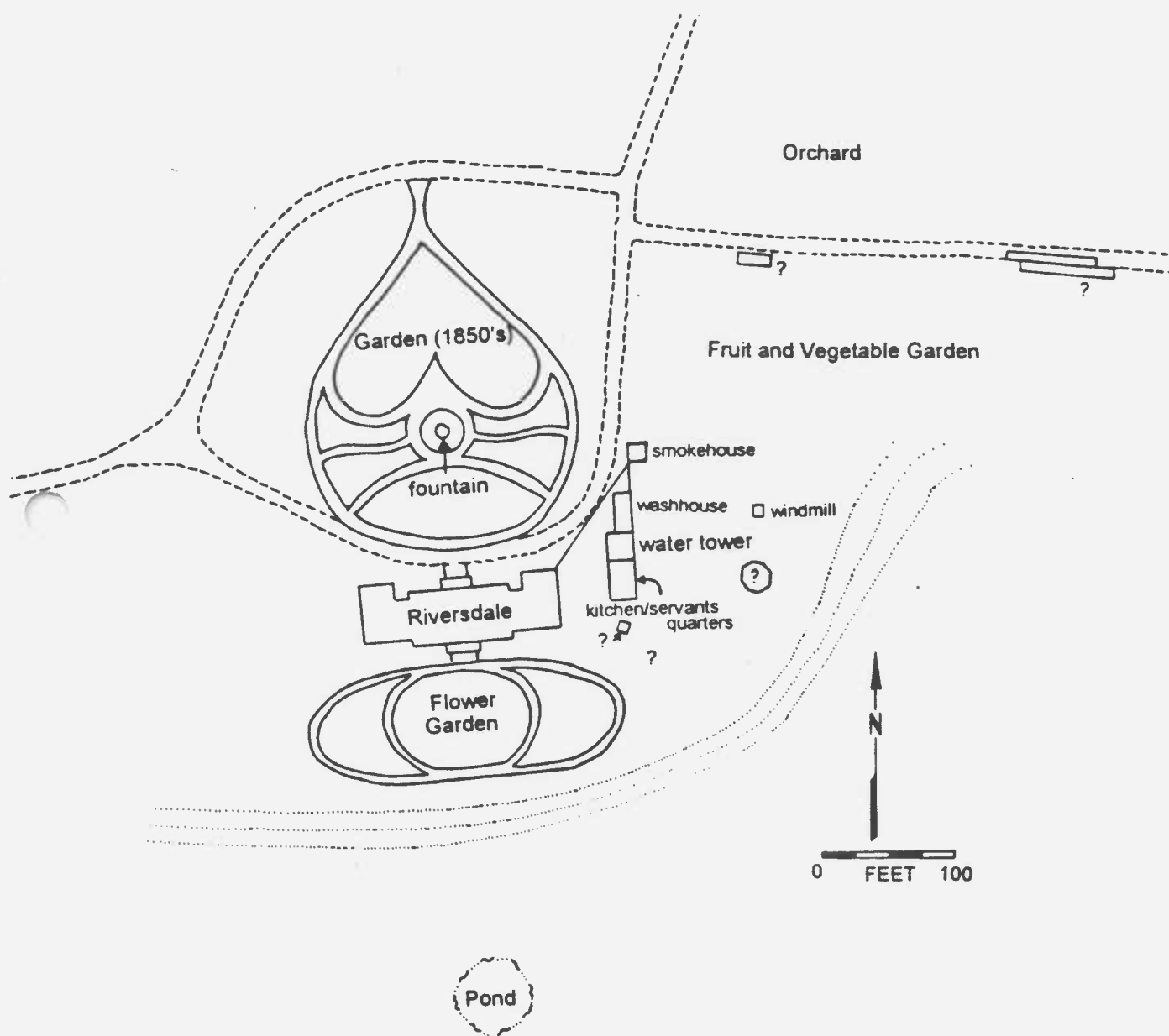


Figure 3.5. Detail of Figure 3.4 (1853).

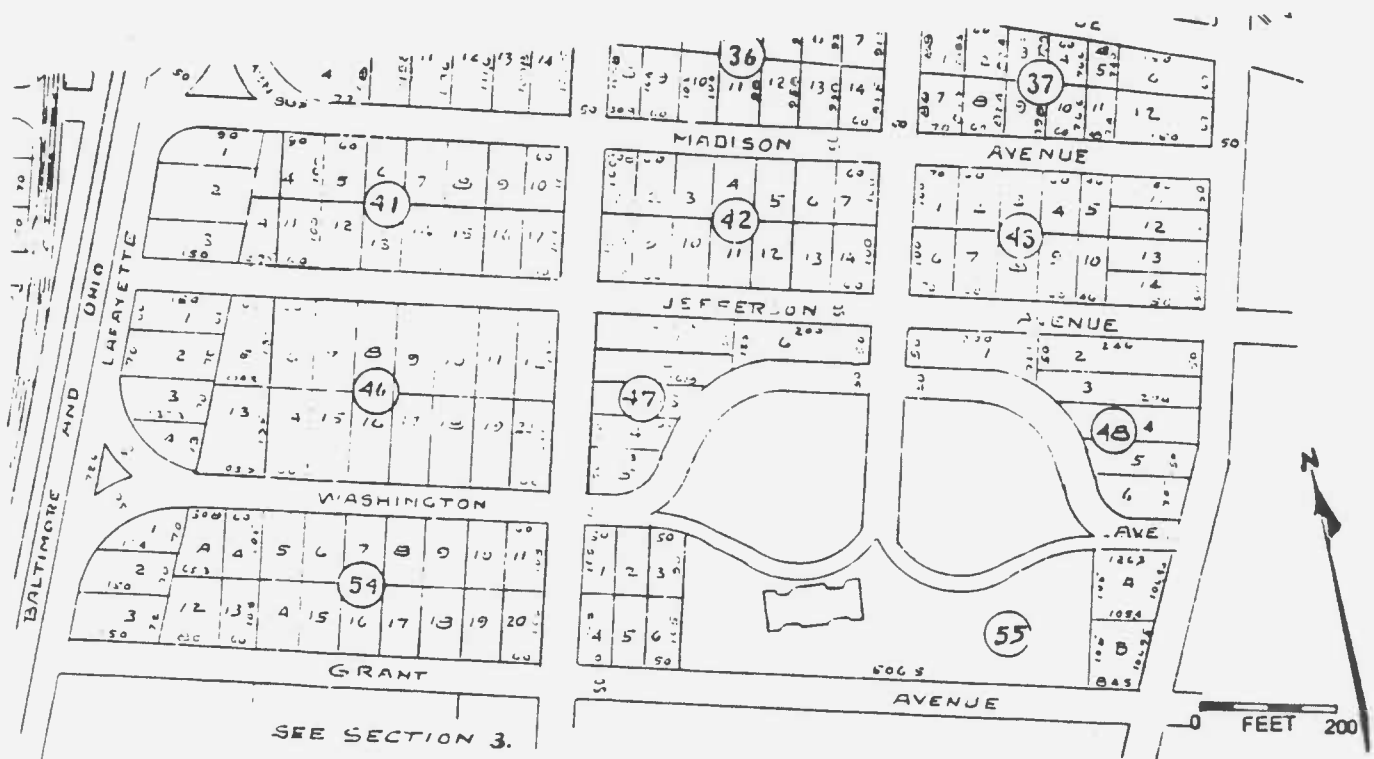


Figure 3.6. Plat map of Riverdale (c.1890).

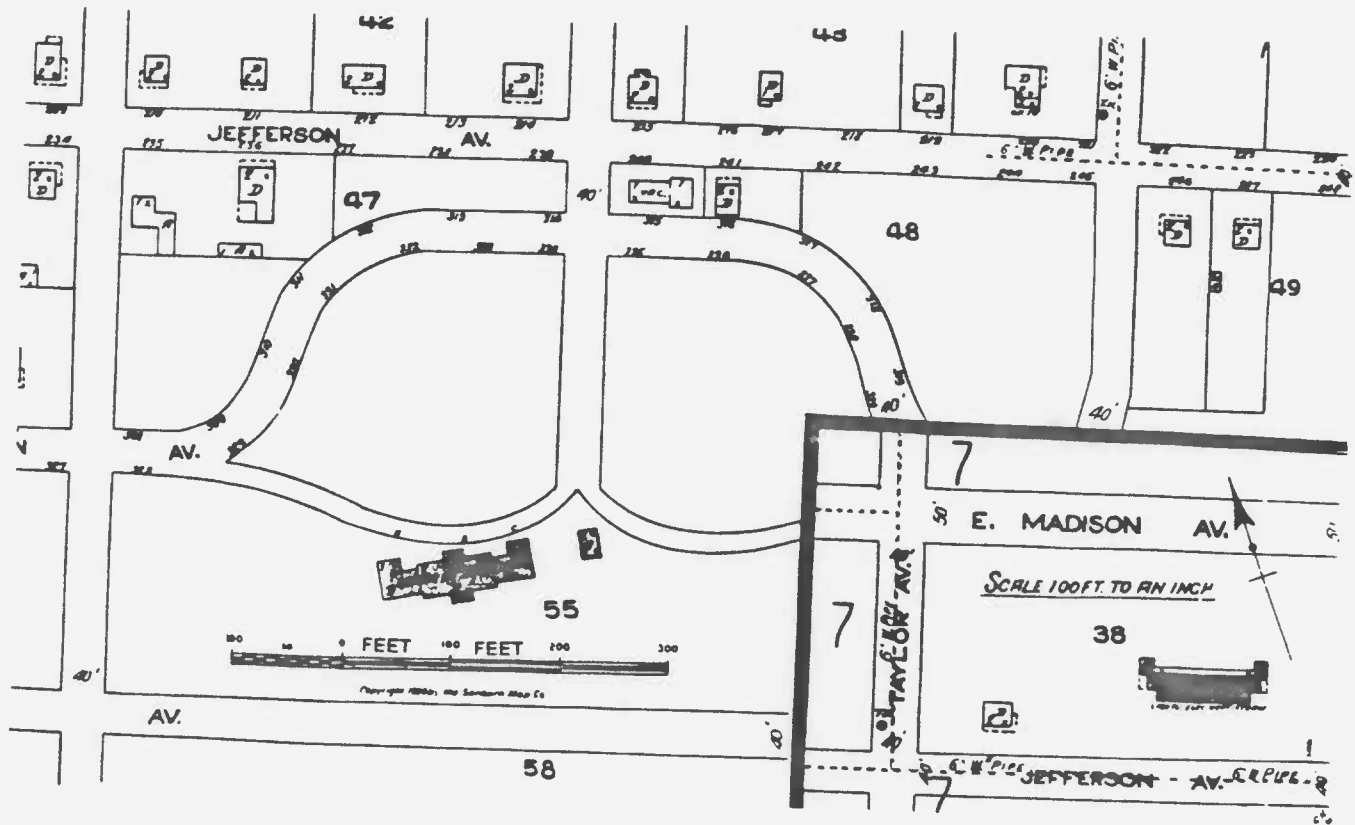


Figure 5.3. Sanborn Atlas, Riverdale (1924).



*Figure 5.8. 1937 aerial view of Riversdale, north at top of page.*



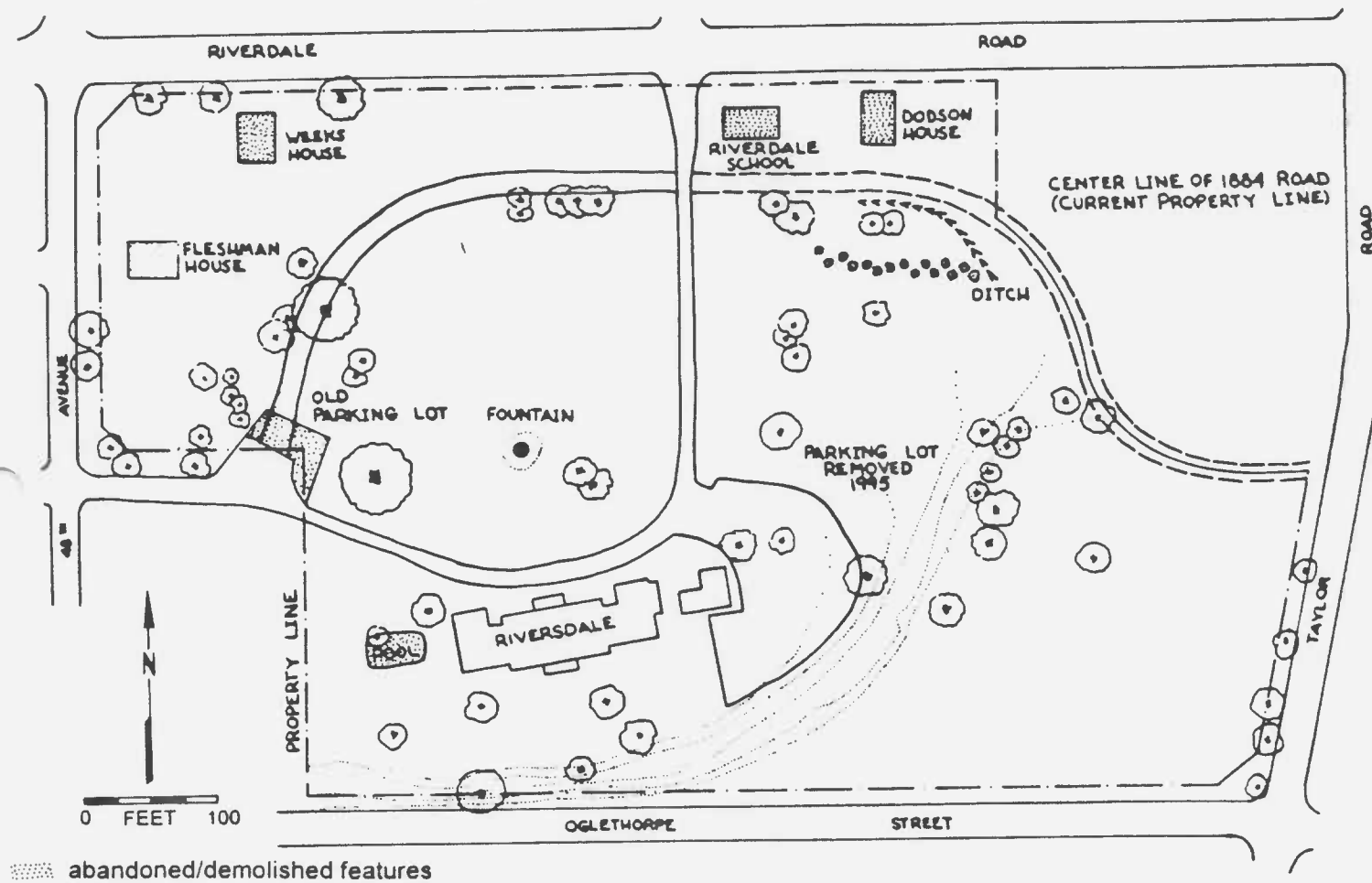


Figure 2.3. Map of Riversdale site, 18PR390 (1995).

Click here for a plain text ADA compliant screen.



Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation  
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY  
Real Property Data Search

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Account Identifier: District - 19 Account Number - 2149094

## Owner Information

**Owner Name:** MARYLAND NATL CAPT PARK & PLANN CO  
CHIEF PK&P DIVPKS & REC-ROOM 303

**Use:** EXEMPT

**Principal Residence:** NO

**Mailing Address:** 6600 KENILWORTH AVE  
RIVERDALE MD 20737-1314

**Deed Reference:** 1) / 1125/ 473  
2)

## Location &amp; Structure Information

**Premises Address**  
4811 RIVERDALE RD  
RIVERDALE 20737

**Zoning**  
R55

**Legal Description**  
PARCEL A  
RIVERDALE PARK >

Map	Grid	Parcel	Sub District	Subdivision	Section	Block	Lot	Group	Plat No:	131028
42	D3			1750		55		80	Plat Ref:	

**Special Tax Areas**

Town	Ad Valorem	Tax Class	08
RIVERDALE PARK			

Primary Structure Built	Enclosed Area	Property Land Area	County Use
0000		7.95 AC	901

Stories	Basement	Type	Exterior

## Value Information

	Base Value	Value As Of 01/01/2001	Phase-in Assessments	
			As Of 07/01/2003	As Of 07/01/2004
Land:	190,780	190,780		
Improvements:	455,860	455,860		
Total:	646,640	646,640	646,640	NOT AVAIL
Preferential Land:	0	0	0	NOT AVAIL

## Transfer Information

Seller:	Date:	Price:
Type:	Deed1:	Deed2:
Seller:	Date:	Price:
Type:	Deed1:	Deed2:
Seller:	Date:	Price:
Type:	Deed1:	Deed2:

## Exemption Information

Partial Exempt Assessments	Class	07/01/2003	07/01/2004
County	000	0	0
State	000	0	0
Municipal	000	0	0

**Tax Exempt:** COUNTY AND STATE  
**Exempt Class:** PARKS AND RECREATION

Special Tax Recapture:

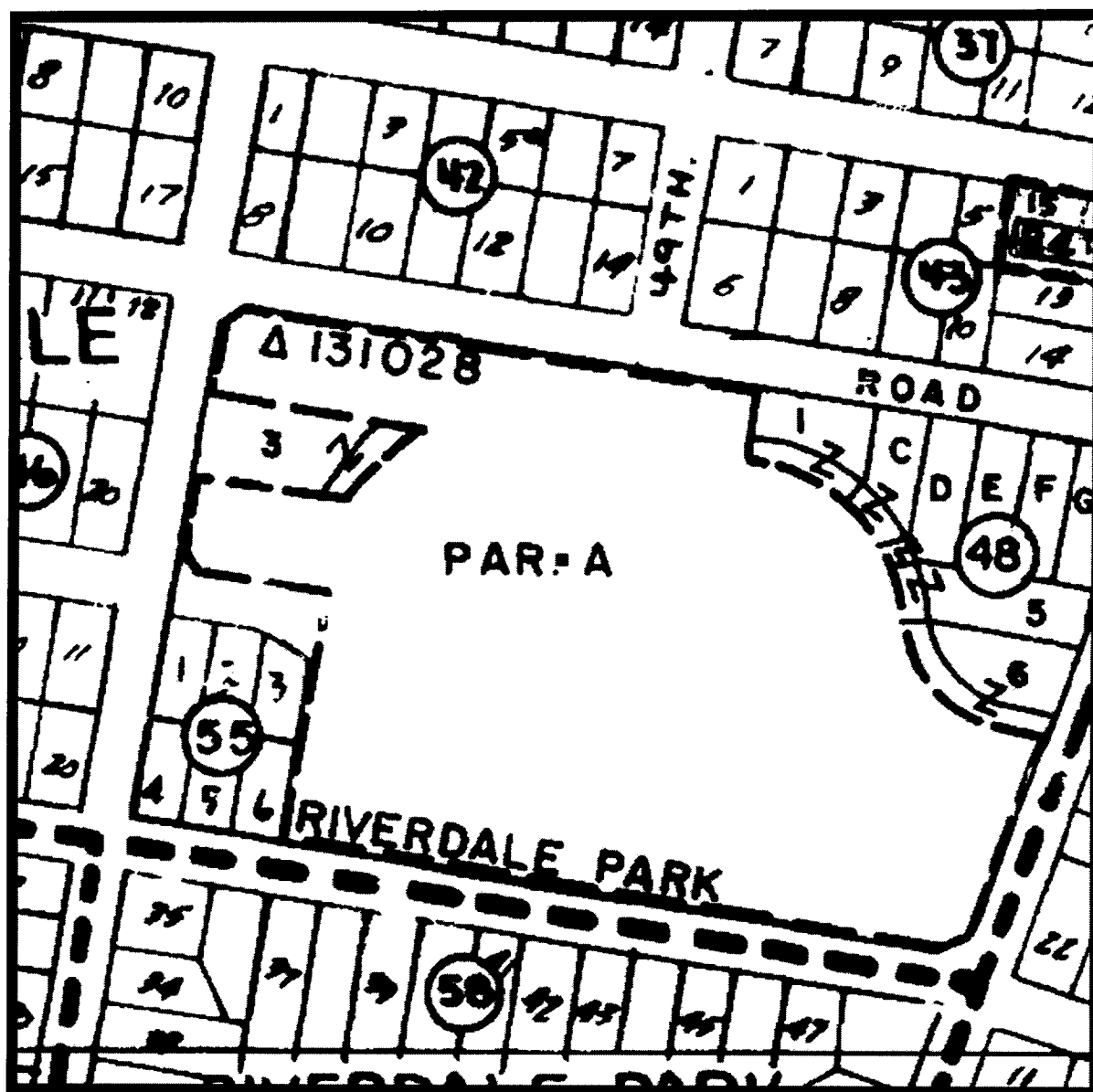
\* NONE \*



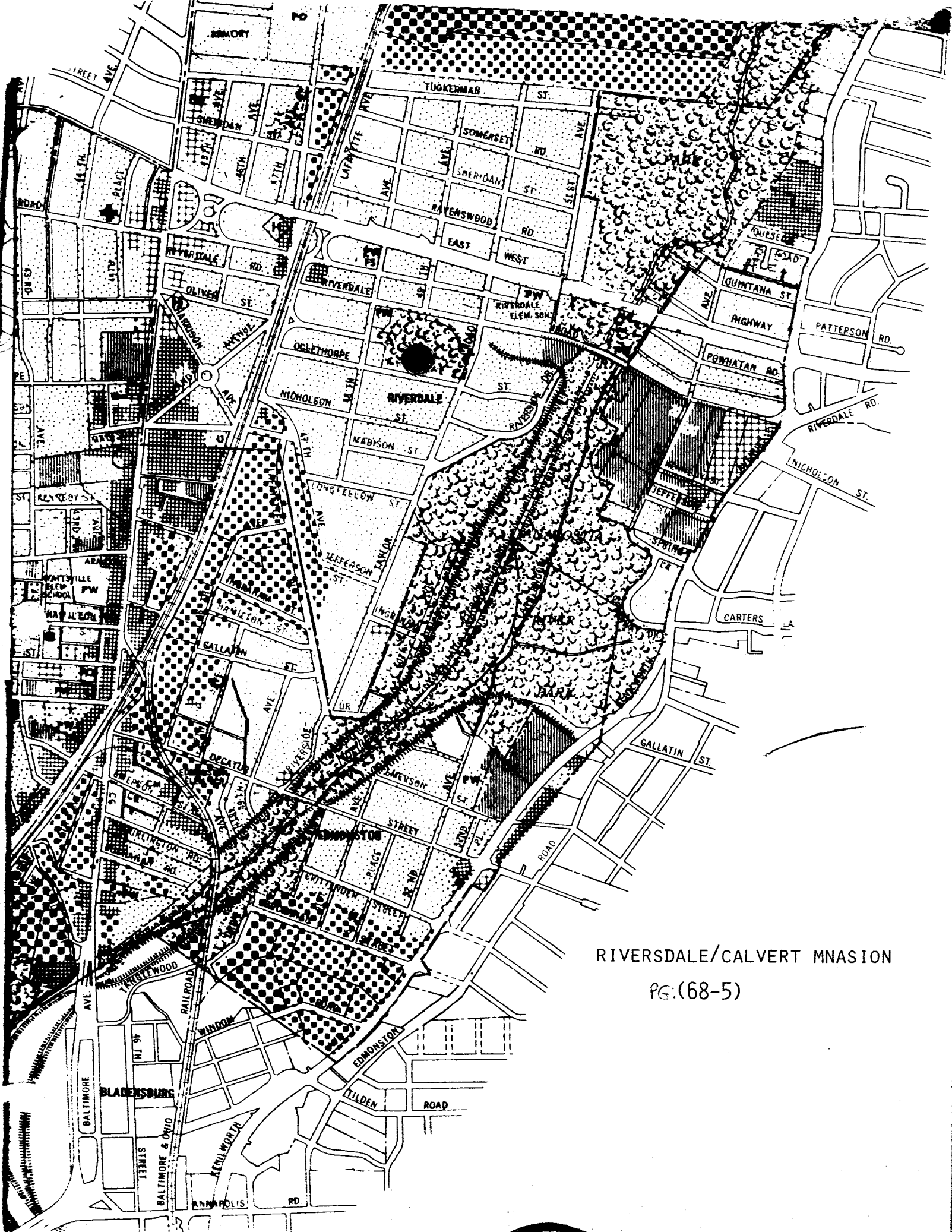
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District - 19 Account Number - 2149094

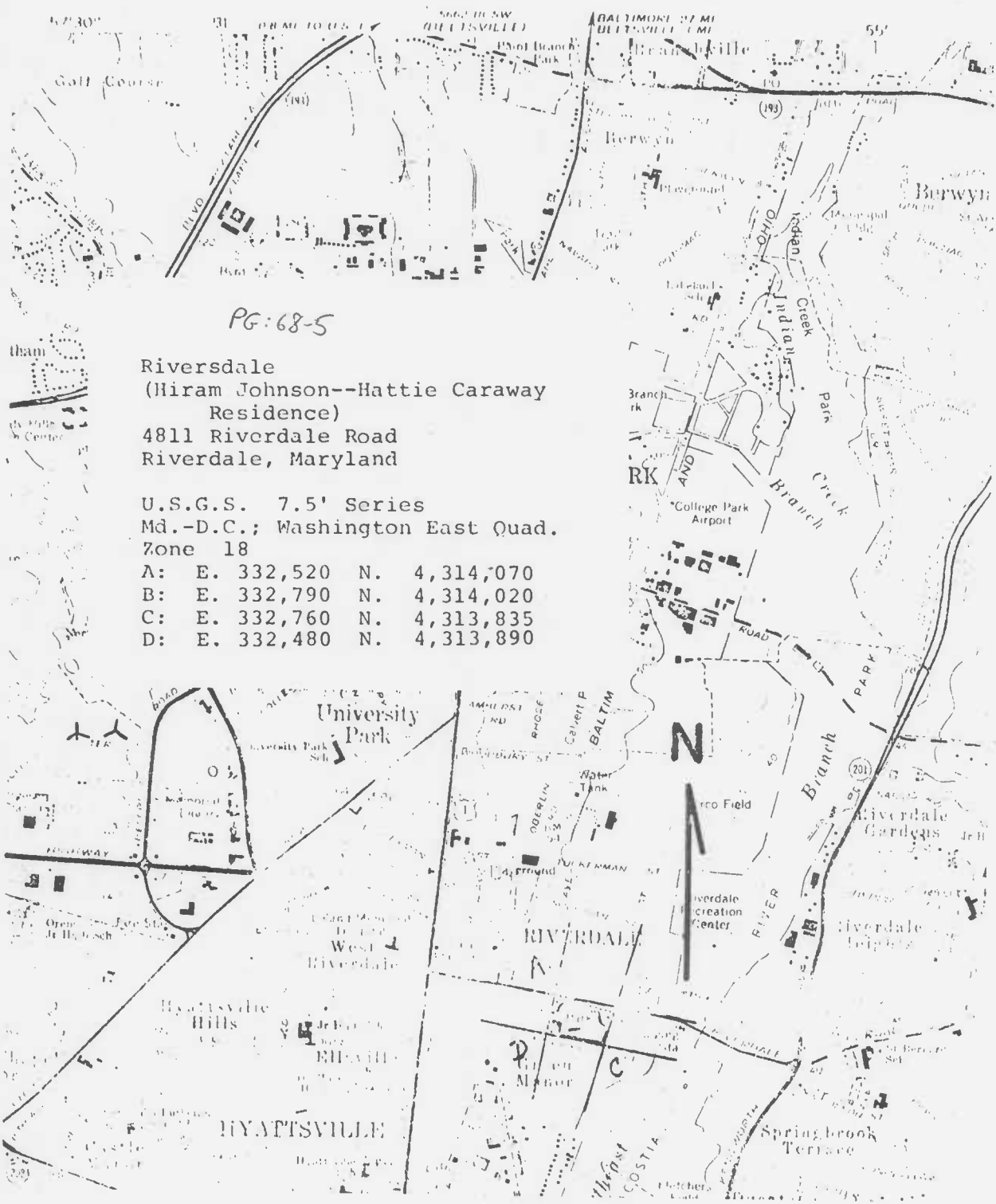


Property maps provided courtesy of the Maryland Department of Planning ©2001.  
For more information on electronic mapping applications, visit the Maryland Department of Planning  
web site at [www.mdp.state.md.us/webcom/index.html](http://www.mdp.state.md.us/webcom/index.html)



RIVERSDALE/CALVERT MNASION

PG.(68-5)



PG:68-5

Riversdale  
 (Hiram Johnson--Hattie Caraway  
 Residence)  
 4811 Riverdale Road  
 Riverdale, Maryland

U.S.G.S. 7.5' Series  
 Md.-D.C.; Washington East Quad.  
 Zone 18

A:	E. 332,520	N. 4,314,070
B:	E. 332,790	N. 4,314,020
C:	E. 332,760	N. 4,313,835
D:	E. 332,480	N. 4,313,890



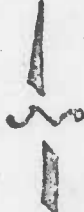
LATITUDE

LONGITUDE

NE	38° 57' 39"
SE	38° 57' 34"
NW	38° 57' 41"
SW	38° 57' 36"

76° 55' 48"
76° 55' 50"
76° 55' 59"
76° 56' 00"

PG: 68-5



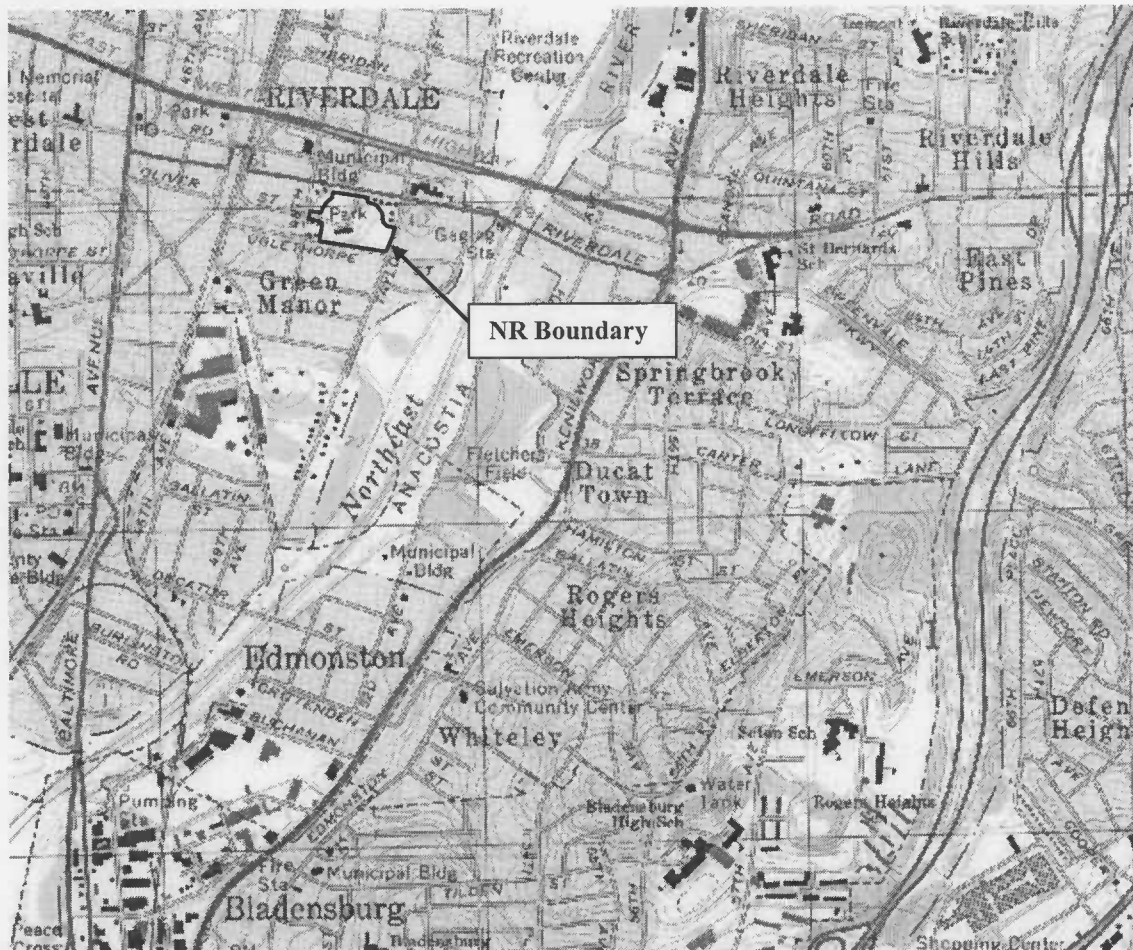


RIVERSDALE -- CALVERT MANSION  
(Hiram Johnson-Hattie Caraway Residence)

Prepared by:  
Mary Jane Gregory  
AASLH  
March 1970  
NOT TO SCALE



PG:68-5  
 Riversdale (Calvert Mansion)  
 4811 Riversdale Road  
 Washington East Quadrangle



1998 Aerial Photo

Tax Map 42, Block 55, Parcel A







A - LAND NOT CONTAINED IN EASEMENT

Riversdale (Calvert Mansion)  
Prince George's County

EASEMENT EXHIBIT NO. A., page 2 of 23

Site Plan  
SCALE:

1" = 150'-0"

PREPARED: 4/80

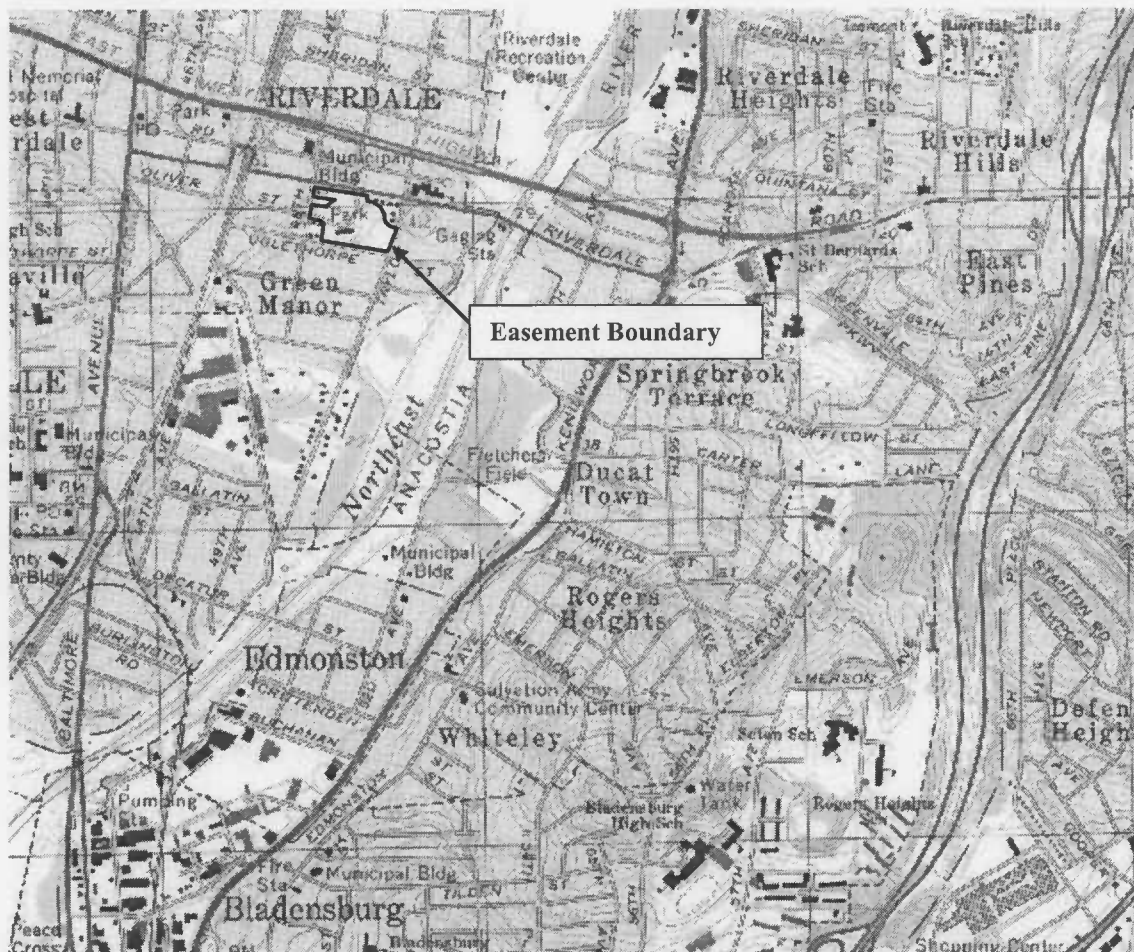
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

JEF



NORTH

PG:68-5  
 Riversdale (Calvert Mansion)  
 4811 Riverdale Road  
 Washington East Quadrangle



1998 Aerial Photo

Tax Map 42, Block 55, Parcel A



PG:68-5 & PG:68-5a  
 Riversdale (Calvert Mansion) & Riversdale Slave Quarters  
 4811 Riversdale Road  
 Washington East Quadrangle



1998 Aerial Photo

Tax Map 42, Block 55, Parcel A





Johnson-Caraway House, Riversdale

Riverdale, Md.    March 1976

Photo: AASLH

PG:68-5



Riversdale Restoration Project  
Photograph #6

PG. 65-5



Riversdale Restoration Project  
Photograph #13

PG 68.5





Riversdale Restoration Project  
Photograph #5

PG. 68-5



Riversdale Restoration Project  
Photograph #8

PG 63-5



NAME RIVERSDALE / CALVERT MANSION - MNCAPP

LOCATION 4811 RIVERSDALE RD. RIVERSDALE, MD

FACADE S

PHOTO TAKEN 3/9/73 M. DWYER

PG:68-5

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

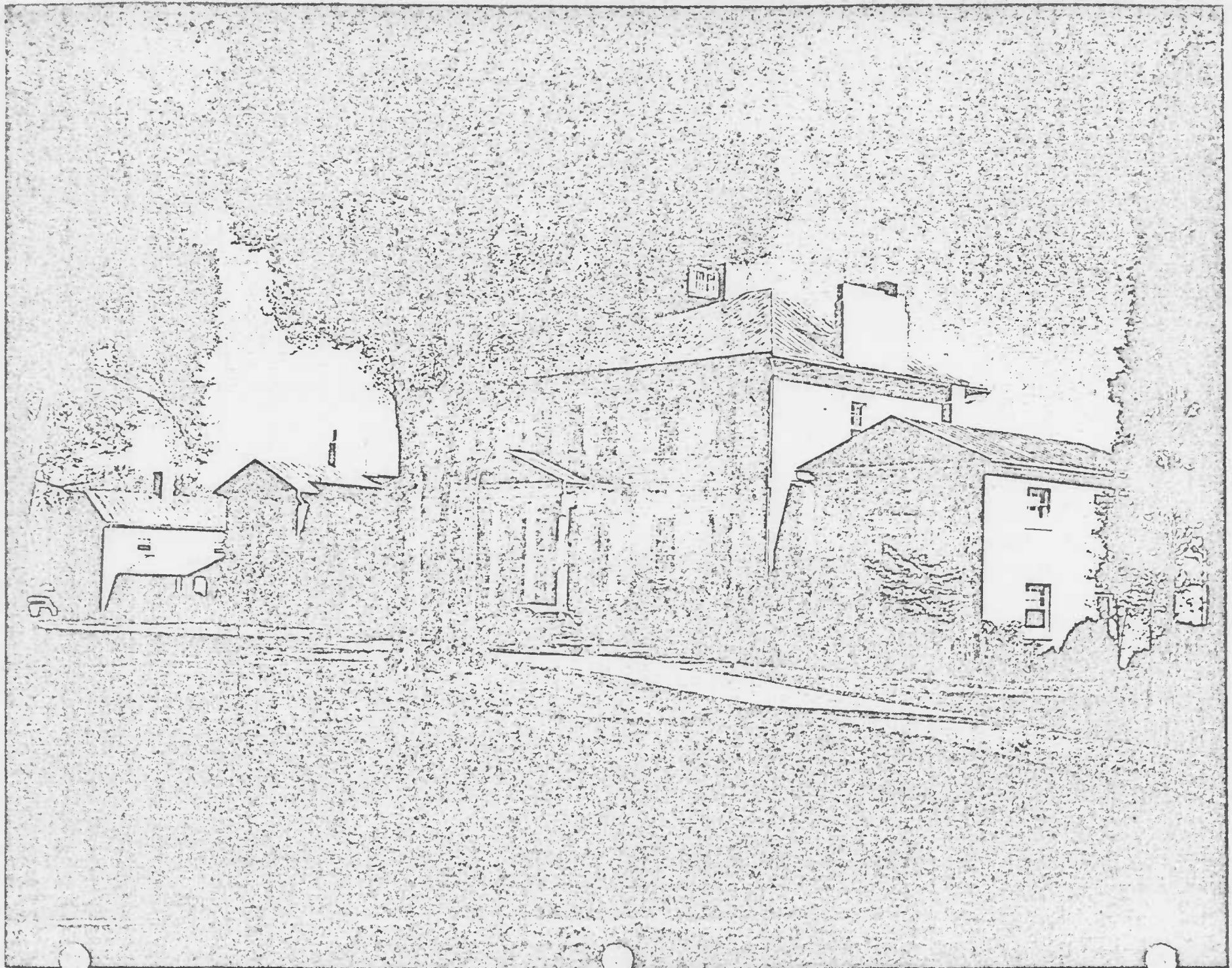
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Maryland		PC-68-5
COUNTY Prince George's		
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	

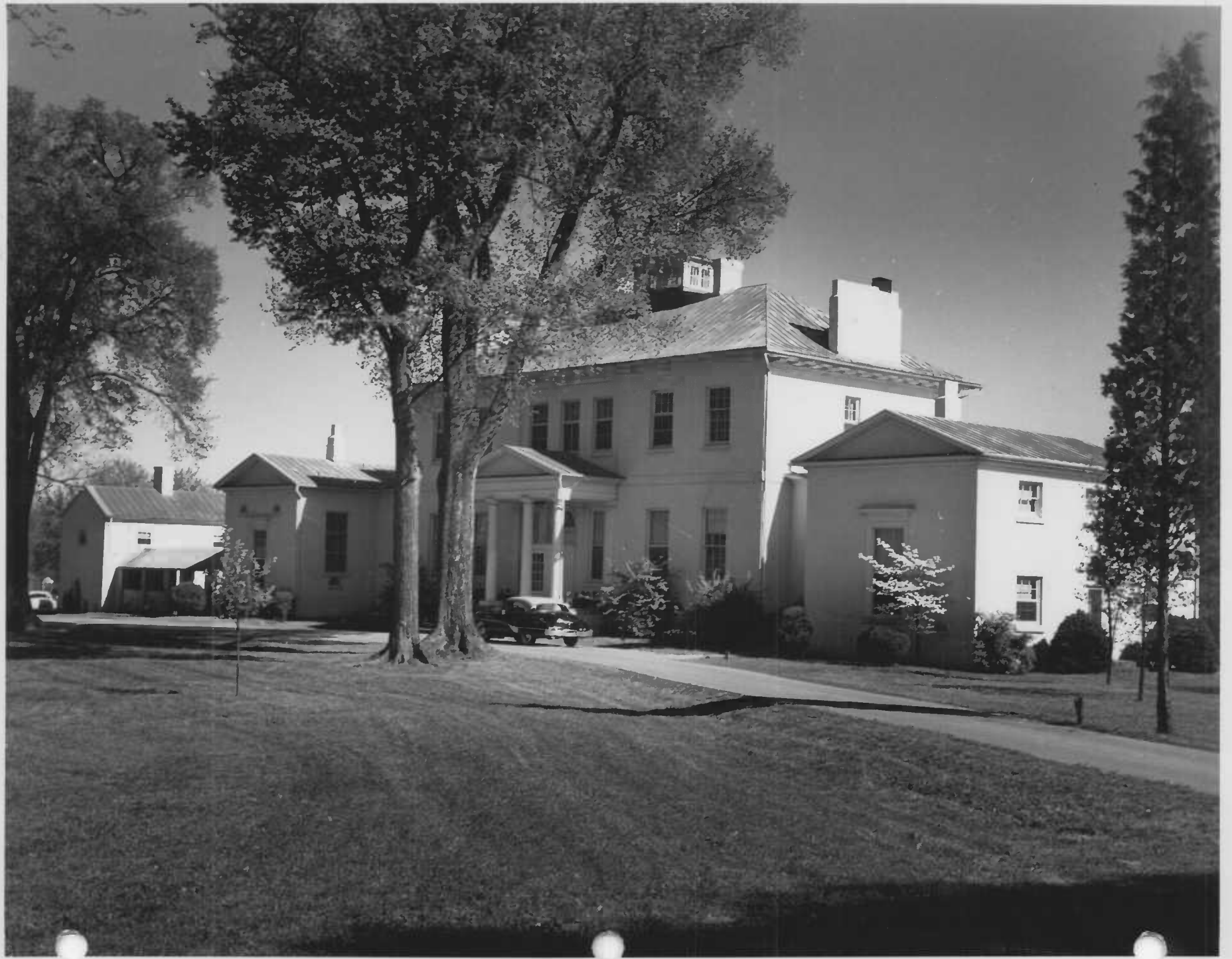
SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Riversdale			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Calvert Mansion			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: South side Riverdale Road between 18th and Taylor Streets			
CITY OR TOWN: Riverdale			
STATE: Maryland	CODE 24	COUNTY: Prince George's	CODE 033
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: John Binter			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1969			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission 8787 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.  North elevation			



PG:685





RIVERSDALE,

P. G. ~~11~~ -68-5

John Bittner, 8787 GEORGIA AVE, 1969



*J. S. John Baker del. 1827*

RIVERSDALE near BLADENSBURG,  
MARYLAND;  
*The Seat of George Calvert Esquire.*

Obtaining by Transfer Lithography.  
11 Charlotte St. Rathbone Place.





RIVERSDALE  
SOUTH ELEVATION

PG 68-5

PG 68-5

10/4/79 J.M. Walton, Jr.



M-NCPPC COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICE  
AUDIO VISUAL SECTION

SUBJECT: Calvert Mansion

DATE: 2/77

LOCATION: \_\_\_\_\_

PHOTOGRAPHER: Curt Kaltsukis

REFERENCE FILE: Historic Sites

ORDER NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

M - NCPPC  
Information Services

Calvert Mansion  
Riverdale, Maryland  
02/77  
Curt Kaltsukis - photog.

19189 MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITALS  
PARK & PLANNING COMMISSION  
6600 KENILWORTH AVENUE  
RIVERDALE, MARYLAND 20840

P 39

6  
2896

RIVERSDALE  
NORTH ELEVATION

P6-685





Riversdale Restoration Project  
Photograph #4

PG-68-S

10/4/79 J.M. Walton, Jr.

WEST ELEVATION

RIVERSDALE



Riversdale Restoration Project  
Photograph #2

P6 65-5

P6 65-5



NAME RIVERSDALE / CALVERT MANSION - MNCPPC

PG: 65-5

LOCATION 4811 RIVERDALE Rd, RIVERDALE, MD

FACADE PLASTER FRIEZE IN CENTER HALL - REAR

PHOTO TAKEN 3/9/73 M. DWYER